

# Antelope Island State Park



*Draft*

Access Management Plan

March 2004

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# Utah State Parks & Antelope Island Access Management Plan

Legend:

- ▲ Utah State Park Locations
- ★ Access Management Plan Study Locality



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# Acknowledgements

## Antelope Island State Park

## Access

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# Preface

Visits to Antelope Island State Park have tripled over the past decade since the park's reopening in 1993. As a consequence, there is increasing demand for more island access. The Utah Division of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) currently faces the problem of providing greater access while simultaneously protecting the island's unique and extensive natural, cultural and historical resource base.

State Parks developed a Resource Management Plan (RMP) in 1994 to provide guidelines, opportunities and limitations for needed development on Antelope Island. Many of the RMP's recommendations have been achieved on the island's northernmost section. Significant opportunities have been created in the island's southern half as well. In 1997, the Division developed an interpretive/site plan to preserve, interpret and restore the historic Garr Ranch. This culminated in the opening of the restored ranch in 2000. In 1998, south and east side access was greatly improved with construction of a paved road to the ranch. Comprehensive planning for management of island wildlife was also completed in 2001.

In spite of these accomplishments, many of the plan's recommendations concerning broader public access remain unfulfilled. The RMP's recommendations specifying greater access - particularly to the island's southern and western portions - include the following actions:

- Provide greater public access to the southern 26,000 acres. In providing such access, the Division and park staff should direct and manage visitor activities and traffic in order to address public safety and resource protection.
- Preserve the area's solitude, isolation, remoteness, ruggedness and quietness. Any development that does occur in the southern portion should be consistent with these values.
- Protect the island's historical/cultural resource and sites prior to allowing public access.
- Provide additional camping opportunities – both primitive and group – on the island's south and west portions.
- Design/develop a sensitively designed trails system that addresses issues relating to resource protection, accessibility, multiple use, interpretive programs, limited/no access areas and safety.
- Provide for limited and controlled vehicular access to the southern part of the island via the east side road.
- Provide additional visitor services and interpretive opportunities along the east road (additional educational, informational and interpretive programming, information signage, interpretive kiosks/plazas, rest rooms, photo sites, etc.).
- Provide overnight accommodations in the vicinity of the Garr Ranch; utilize as an integrated business retreat center.
- Provide the opportunity to develop and operate an eco-tourism camping experience on the remote west side of the island. Also consider boating access to this area.

The southern end of Antelope Island has been closed to the general public since the park reopened in 1993. The southern end has allowed limited access in the form of concessionaire led tours and special events such as Buffalo Days and the Buffalo Roundup. Park managers list concerns about the potential for negative impacts on the unique wildlife residing on the island when the south end is opened to the public.



With some initial groundwork laid by the 1994 RMP and the subsequent Garr Ranch Interpretive/Site Plan and updated wildlife management planning efforts, State Parks is poised to fulfill the remaining planning objectives specified above. A formal access planning process is required to achieve these goals.

Team recommendations – contained in this plan - to resolve these issues were reached by consensus and included input from the public, subject matter experts (see Appendix A) and other government agencies. They are intended to be dynamic and will evolve concurrently with park needs as the plan's goals are achieved.

Comprehensive park planning is required by the Utah State Legislature and the Board of the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation to guide short and long term site management and capital development. The planning process recommends limits of acceptable change or modification, and a future vision for the park. Specifically, the process: (1) recognizes the importance of public access to the park's resources; (2) recognizes impacts will result from use and enjoyment of the site; (3) questions how much and what types of impacts may be accommodated while providing reasonable protection of the resources for future visitors; (4) seeks sustained quality and value; and (5) seeks to determine the conditions under which this can be attained.

The most recent RMP for Antelope Island was completed in 1994. The results and recommendation from the RMP have helped to shape this **Access Management Plan (AMP)**. Recommendations contained within this plan will be implemented under the direction of the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation. This plan is intended to be a useful, workable document that will guide access management of the park.

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# Executive Summary

In early 2003 Division representatives met with community stakeholders to initiate an access management planning effort for Antelope Island State Park.

The planning process was based on public input and involvement. The Antelope Island Access Management Planning Team, a citizen-based team representing community leaders, interested users, local residents, subject matter experts and agency representatives, was at the core of the process. A subcommittee of agency representatives and subject matter experts was formed to aid in the process. The recommendations contained in this document represent several months of work by the team.

The plan provides recommendations founded upon mission and vision statements developed by the planning team. The mission of the Antelope Island State Park Access Management Planning Team is to develop a comprehensive access management plan that defines visitor opportunities, emphasizes the protection of resources, and preserves the values of solitude, openness and ruggedness.

The Antelope Island State Park Access Management Planning Team was chartered to evaluate the feasibility of opening the island to broader public access. The team accomplished this goal by first; developing procedures and guidelines by which access will be evaluated; and second, considering specific access issues deemed feasible by this process.

With all access recommendations, the following factors were considered:

- Determination of the limits of acceptable change to maintain the island's solitude, openness and ruggedness
- Identification of the appropriate level of management required for each activity along with a determination of revenue needs, costs and available resources
- Impacts upon flora, fauna, cultural/historic resources
- Inhibiting the spread of noxious weeds and fire danger
- Visitor safety issues
- Ensuring consistency with previous planning efforts
- Visitor education information and interpretation needs and opportunities
- Ensure that proposed development complements the island's natural and cultural features
- Ensure that recommendations do not merely duplicate existing opportunities before the whole Island is considered for greater access
- Minimize user conflicts and promote responsible use
- Partnerships, user groups, and stakeholders should be part of the decision-making process

These objectives are geared toward improving and expanding access to the park, improving the park's recreational opportunities, protecting its resources and providing the visitor with a safe, enjoyable experience. Achievement of these objectives will require the continued support of users, legislative and community leaders and the Division of Parks and Recreation.

Team members followed a process to determine the feasibility and adoption of proposed actions. The process can be outlined as follows: a recreation subcommittee composed of team members was formed and asked to develop specific issues; the issues were placed into a matrix format and scored against 23 criteria identified in the vision; the issues were then evaluated for feasibility and approved for adoption by subject matter experts. The planning team issued several specific recommendations in support of the plan's mission and vision statements and considerations. Eight issue areas form the basis of the team's recommendations. The issue areas with accompanying recommendations are outlined as follows:

### **General Park Access**

- If staffing levels allow the main gate should open at 6:00am and close at 10:00pm, April through September; 8:00pm, October and March; 7:00pm, November and February; 6:00pm, December and January.
- Visitors should leave the park when the gate closes, following State Park guidelines.
- Park management should assess whether staff should stay later to assist late arriving campers gain access to their reserved campsites.
- Park management needs to establish guidelines for what events are approved for the Fielding Garr Ranch and Visitor's Center. Any "after hours" activities must be sanctioned events. Staff must host ranch activities. Park managers should also consider approved after-hours events for the *entire* Park, not just at the Visitor's Center or Ranch.
- The nine-mile gate, located just north of the Ranch, will be open only when staff, including certified volunteers, are there. Additional funding/staff would be required if the gate were to remain open additional hours.

### **Closures On Trail Systems**

- Maintain the annual seasonal closures on the Mountain View Trail due to pronghorn fawning from the north trailhead to the Frary Peak trailhead for approximately one month between May 15 and June 16 (actual dates may vary).
- Maintain the closure of The Frary Peak Trail from April 20 to the Memorial Day weekend (approximately) for bighorn lambing and also to help mitigate various law enforcement problems if necessary.
- Once new trails are identified and approved for access, define needed closures as appropriate.
- Park management, at their discretion, should close trails during muddy conditions, flood periods or where use may result in damage or safety hazards. If possible, staff will identify other existing, alternative trails for use during such closures.
- Consult state risk management and develop guidelines for trail closure when the probability of lightning is high. Signage, commensurate with guidelines, should be considered.
- Consider periodic trail closures when reconstruction might require temporary closure.

## **Access Along the Southern Tip Road**

- Resolve the problematic mud-“bog” area on the road to Southern Tip/Unicorn Point near McIntyre Springs.
- Establish a trailhead at the overflow, gravel-parking area for the Fielding Garr Ranch. Use the trailhead for one year, monitoring the effects on the Fielding Garr Ranch. After one year, examine the feasibility of moving the trailhead further south. The goal is to provide access to users of all ability levels without large-scale development. The trails will be open to hikers, bicyclists and equestrians. Continue concession van tours.

## **Provision Of Open Access Areas**

- Maintain current policies providing open access, defined as on or off-trail use without permit, for the North 2000 acres and southern portion on Buffalo Days (one-day event) and the Buffalo Round-up (four days). Staff will identify and designate other areas for open access by permit. Enhance staff to more effectively manage these events.

## **New Trail Opportunities**

Proposed trails were based on the spatial categories concept adopted by the team (Please see Plate 1, p47). In this spatial categories concept, provision of access (defined as hiking, bicycling and equestrian use) is contingent upon the degree of impact to resources within a given area. Simply meaning that the team took critical and sensitive wildlife habitat into consideration when deciding which areas should be opened to public access. Similarly, archeological/cultural surveys and mitigation must be considered when opening new trail sections. Park management will design and implement a permit system for southern/backcountry trail use.

Specific trail opportunities were proposed:

Note that all users must stay on trails

- 1a) Develop a trail segment from ranch to the Sentry on existing dirt road from ranch; appropriate actions should be taken to secure and protect the Mushroom Springs site. No access should be provided to the Mushroom Springs site unless specified in an interpretive plan for the site. Mitigation efforts to protect the site should be instituted.
- 1b) Reclaim the trail segment from ranch to Sentry (same as segment 1a, above) to Westside Springs. No public access will be allowed in the Westside Spring area. Park staff and emergency personnel will have access for fire fighting/control, wildlife study and other special circumstances.
- 1c) Provide access along trail segment from ranch to “Y” in existing road below Sentry that leads toward Buffalo Scaffold Canyon and forks toward the west side shore.
- 1d) Consider equestrian access and evaluate impacts on trail segment from ranch to “Y” in existing road below Sentry that leads to Buffalo Scaffold Canyon and forks northward passing by Buffalo Scaffold Canyon, Dry Canyon, Red Rocks Canyon, Mormon Rocks and Split Rock Bay and connects to the existing Split Rock trail system. Evaluate safety issues prior to opening to the general public.

- 1e) Park should perform a study on the impact that visitors and trail construction would have on the visual, cultural and natural resources along the Daddy Stump Ridge loop prior to allowing access. Evaluate safety issues before opening to the general public. This trail would utilize the same segment described in option 1a, with the loop beginning at the Sentry and extending southward along the Bonneville Terrace southward to Molly's Nipple and return to Sentry.
- 3) Develop trail spurs from the existing Mountain View trail to Frary and Mulberry Grove sites contingent on completion of an interpretive plan that outlines protective measures for archeological/ historic sites and other resources.
- 5) Develop a marsh/pickleweed boardwalk/interpretive walk (for foot traffic only) near White Rock Bay group campsites.
- 6) Develop a trail to Dooley Knob utilizing the existing Frary Peak trailhead. The trail would be for hiking only.

## **Camping**

- Examine the feasibility of a walk-in tent site/camping area on the north end of the beach below the Visitor's Center versus other sites.
- Expand the existing Bridger Bay campground considering development of a second loop.
- Provide overnight horse stabling for campers near the buffalo corral.
- Provide boat camping in the marina.
- Implement a permit system/process for overnight boaters' parking.
- Perform a feasibility study for campsites on the North trail system and lakeside (see Plate 1) before these sites are considered for backcountry campsites. The purposed locations for these campsites are at Split Rock Bay, near Red Rocks Canyon and Cambria Point and Buffalo Scaffold Canyon near the "Old Cowboy Campsite"/Cedar Springs area.
- Park management will be responsible for deciding which special events are held near Fielding Garr Ranch, and if camping will be allowed in conjunction with the events.

## **Archeological/Historic Site Access**

- Develop a comprehensive Antelope Island Interpretive Plan that adequately protects cultural and historic sites as outlined in the Division's MOU with State History. Which states that any new development, including trails, will have a cultural survey completed and any necessary mitigation efforts approved by State History.
- Perform a survey, management plan and other management guidance prior to allowing public access to new sites, including the following:
  - Frary Grave Site
  - Headbanger Cave
  - Mushroom Springs Site
  - Mulberry Grove Area with visitors routed away from Garden Creek
  - Stone Corral Site, include wayside exhibits
  - Unicorn Point
  - Mormon Rocks

## **Proposed Facilities Development**

- Expand the Visitor's Center to include more conference rooms, meeting space and storage space.
- Improve the current information pullouts on the East Side Road to provide better visual/interpretive information.
- Construct formal trailheads at places where the Mountain View Trail intersects the East Side Road (near Camera Flats, for example).

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# Antelope Island Access Management Plan

## Mission and Vision

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Antelope Island State Park Access Management Planning Team is to develop a comprehensive access management plan that defines visitor opportunities, emphasizes the protection of resources, and preserves the values of solitude, openness and ruggedness.

Antelope Island State Park currently faces the problem of providing greater access while simultaneously protecting the island's unique and extensive natural, cultural and historical resource base. Team members developed the mission statement out of the desire for increased public access on Antelope Island. The team recognized that the Island is unique in that it holds both land and water-based recreational opportunities such as day-use activities, camping and water-related recreation. The island also houses several archeological and historic sites. Antelope Island presently serves, and will continue, as a recreational destination for the surrounding community, the state of Utah and areas beyond.

### **Vision Statement**

The vision for the Antelope Island State Park Access Management Planning Team is to evaluate the feasibility of opening the Island to broader public access. The team will accomplish this by first developing procedures and guidelines by which access will be evaluated; and second, considering specific access issues.

Utilizing the basic principles in the mission statement, the team developed a vision statement to guide development of the plan's recommendations. The vision statement establishes the foundation for recommendations to meet needs for increased access, archeological/historic site protection, wildlife habitat protection and facilities development. Each recommendation is consistent with the principles outlined in the vision statement.

In the process of creating the vision statement the following evaluative criteria were also developed. These criteria should be considered for all access recommendations:

- ❑ Determination of the limits of acceptable change to maintain the island's solitude, openness and ruggedness
- ❑ Identification of the appropriate level of management required for each activity along with a determination of revenue needs, costs and available resources
- ❑ Impacts upon flora, fauna, cultural/historic resources
- ❑ Inhibiting the spread of noxious weeds and fire danger
- ❑ Visitor safety issues
- ❑ Ensuring consistency with previous planning efforts
- ❑ Visitor education information and interpretation needs and opportunities
- ❑ Ensure that proposed development complements the island's natural and cultural features
- ❑ Ensure that recommendations do not merely duplicate existing opportunities before the whole Island is considered for greater access
- ❑ Minimize user conflicts and promote responsible use
- ❑ Partnerships, user groups, and stakeholders should be part of the decision-making process

# Access Management Plan

## Purpose and Process

### **Purpose of the Plan**

Courtland Nelson, Director of Utah State Parks and Recreation chartered the Antelope Island State Park Access Management Planning Team in January 2003. The team's purpose was to develop a series of recommendations that would allow for "broader public access, particularly in the island's southern areas." Previous planning efforts involving recreational use and public access of the island spanned two extremes of potential access and use: from limited public access and wildlife preservation, to highly developed, island-wide public use. This Access Management plan will further clarify access issues described in the 1994 comprehensive Resource Management Plan (RMP) and try to strike a balance between the public's desire to access more of the scenic beauty of Antelope Island and the sensitive issues posed by wildlife management and historic preservation.

### **1994 Resource Management Plan**

State Parks developed a Resource Management Plan (RMP) in 1994 to provide guidelines, opportunities and limitations for needed development on Antelope Island. Many of the RMP's recommendations have been achieved on the island's northernmost section. Significant opportunities have been created in the island's southern half as well. In 1997, the Division developed an interpretive/site plan to preserve, interpret and restore the historic Garr Ranch. This culminated in the opening of the restored ranch in 2000. In 1998, south and east side access was greatly improved with construction of a paved road to the ranch. Comprehensive planning for management of island wildlife was also completed in 2001.

In spite of these accomplishments, many of the plan's recommendations concerning broader public access remain unfulfilled. The RMP's recommendations specifying greater access, particularly to the island's southern and western portions - include the actions listed in the preface (piii).

### **Access Plan Development**

While the 1994 RMP specifies broad goals concerning expanded island access, the division representatives determined that the current RMP and subsequent trails inventories are insufficient in terms of providing specific guidelines for potential trails and routes, resource impacts, designated use areas, staffing needs and associated costs. For this reason, the group agreed to initiate development of a comprehensive Island Access Management Plan. This process would incorporate relevant public input and feedback gathered during subsequent planning efforts. It was determined that the planning process should explore and resolve the following issues:

#### Access

- Identify the existing conditions regarding park access, i.e., current access points, trails and routes.
- Define desired future condition and goals and objectives regarding lake access, trail access and development and resource impacts.
- Clearly identify impacts on island resources.
- Utilize past survey information and public comments to identify key access concerns and needs among the population requiring access, e.g., hikers, bikers, equestrian, and others.
- Identify potential constraints or conflicts with management goals or previous planning efforts.
- Identify user conflict issues regarding access and define desired future conditions along with related goals and objectives to resolve access conflict.

#### Information, Education and Interpretation

- Identify existing conditions concerning access-related information, education and interpretive needs regarding access impacts on island resources, safety on trails, routes, etc.

#### Park Concessions

- Define issues regarding park concessions with respect to access issues, determine what type of concessions are appropriate and should be offered

#### Management, Funding and Staff Impacts

- Identify management impacts and costs associated with potential access recommendations
- Identify impacts upon staff and related safety and law enforcement issues, needs and goals

Antelope Island State Park must plan for public access, particularly as the island continues to increase in popularity. Access on Antelope Island has, and will continue to be, a salient issue for Utah State Parks. The key goal for Park Management is to strike a balance between uninhibited access and resource protection - to nurture a situation in which the public is able to explore and enjoy the island while respecting the environment and natural surroundings.

Planning is necessary to achieve these objectives. It is also needed to assist Park Managers to obtain necessary funding for operations, maintenance and capital development needs related to access management.

### **The Planning Process**

Planning for an outstanding recreational resource such as Antelope Island State Park is required for protection of this unique area and to enable increased non-consumptive public access to the island. It is necessary to determine the recreating public's needs, develop strategies for implementing facilities, events and related policies and for the long-term protection and public enjoyment of the area's unique resources. This Access Management Plan (AMP) will help to guide short and long-term site/event management and capital development.

The process is based on input from potential users, area citizens, division staff and subject-matter experts. Issues and recommendations were gathered from a series of team and subcommittee meetings.

In early 2002 it was determined that a comprehensive Island Access Management Plan was needed. Division representatives met with community stakeholders to familiarize them with the proposed process and the need for creating an Access Management Plan (AMP) for Antelope Island State Park.

In February 2003 Division representatives met with the goal of selecting 8-12 individuals to compose the access management planning team. Team members were selected for a variety of reasons ranging from technical expertise to interest in the park. All team members participated on a voluntary basis and expressed a willingness to sacrifice a significant portion of their time and expertise to the process. Eleven individuals were selected to serve on the planning team:

- Jerry Adair, Former Legislator
- Steve Bates, Wildlife Range Manager
- Jay Christianson, North West Region Manager
- Steve Hadden, Antelope Island Trail Patrol
- Kevin Jones, State Archeologist
- Bruce Kartchner, Backcountry Horsemen
- Rick Mayfield, Friends of Antelope Island
- Kirk Nichols, University of Utah
- Wilf Sommerkorn, Davis County Government
- Shelleice Stokes, Ogden/Weber Convention
- Ron Taylor, Park Manager

Several representatives from the Division also served as staff to the team.

In March 2003 the first Antelope Island Access Management Planning Team meeting was held. The meeting was a field trip to Antelope Island to provide team members with an on-site experience to learn about the island's natural, cultural and historic resource base, existing recreational opportunities, potential access opportunities, and related constraints and concerns. Park and Division staff covered several locations and areas of concern including: Buffalo Point, Beacon Knob, Frary Gravesite, Garden Creek/Mulberry Grove, The Sentry, Fielding Garr Ranch, South Causeway, and Unicorn Point. Subsequent team meetings reviewed resource issues and constraints, identified guiding principles (mission and vision statements) and examined the area's strengths, opportunities and threats (SOT).

This section will go into greater detail on the overall planning process, in particular, how issues regarding access were identified, evaluated for feasibility and also how plan recommendations were adopted by the team. The team utilized various analytical strategies to develop issues and determine recommendations. These include: SOT, matrix and the comments of subject matter experts.

### **Strengths, Opportunities and Threats (SOT)**

The team worked to develop recommendations through a process of reviewing resource issues and constraints, developing guiding principles (mission and vision statements) and examining the area's strengths, opportunities and threats (SOT exercise).

**Current Park Conditions and Problems Relating to Access**

During the SOT exercise park staff were able to outline several of the access problems they would like the team to help solve. Park staff provided an overview of current access opportunities,

potential opportunities, operation-related access issues and the types of recreation opportunities currently allowed. Issues highlighted were:

- Concerns that several of the park's existing facilities are insufficient to handle the public's current access needs
- There is a need for more access opportunities at Fielding Garr Ranch
- Hours of operation need to be revisited
- Island wildlife and habitat issues
  - A primary objective of the team should be to identify critical wildlife/habitat areas and ensure that proposed access alternatives do not pose negative impacts and that the actions adopted by the Access Management Plan (AMP) be consistent with the 2001 Wildlife Management Plan.
  - The team should pay special attention to sensitive species, major viewing species such as Mule deer and bison, weed infestation and range rehabilitation and fire control.

The state archeologist noted various cultural/historic resource issues. He identified several of the Island's notable prehistoric sites and also pointed out other historical sites of interest or concern. He expressed that there is a need for all of these sites to be evaluated if access is to be allowed in their proximity. He provided a Memorandum of Agreement between State Parks and State History that requires State Parks to consult with State History to ensure that potential planning or development actions meet the minimum standards for complying with state cultural resource protection laws.

**Strengths, Opportunities and Threats**

The team identified strengths, opportunities and threats relating to park access. The following are the key strengths, opportunities and threats as prioritized by individual team member vote:

**Strengths**

- The island's outstanding panoramic views and its scenic beauty
- The island's cultural, historic and geologic treasures and the associated Great Salt Lake ecosystem
- Visitor ability to view island wildlife
- Diversity of the recreational opportunities available

**Opportunities**

- Education and Interpretive-related programs related to access, resources, etc., should be enhanced; The visitor's center needs to be expanded and comprehensive interpretive planning related to access should be developed; These efforts should focus on additional signage, more trail brochures, boardwalk experiences, etc.
- Provide more backcountry recreation experiences such as controlled backcountry access (trails), eco-tours, adventure events, disbursed backcountry camping, etc.
- Provide additional camping opportunities
- Provide additional marina-based boating (predominantly kayak, sailboat and canoe) experiences



### Threats

- There is a major concern about access-related damage/degradation to island resources and the visitor experience: Wildlife/habitat impacts/displacement, cultural/historic resource impacts, off-trail impacts (erosion, widening trails), litter, human waste, and the loss of visitor solitude are potential issues as more access is provided
- There is a concern about limited funding and insufficient staff to adequately protect and manage resources, develop new infrastructure and maintain existing facilities as visitation increases
- As more access is provided, there are concerns about overcrowding
- Potential wildfire problems and difficulties in controlling the spread of noxious weeds with additional access

Team members were given the results of the SOT exercise and after review grouped the emergent issues into distinct categories. Within each issue area, staff listed several potential goals taken from the prioritized SOT outcomes. It was recommended that the team define specific actions to achieve each goal, and monitor/measure how each goal can be accomplished. This led to the development of an evaluation process to determine the feasibility of proposed actions.

### Matrix – Evaluation of Proposed Actions

A subcommittee of planning team members was formed and asked to develop specific action proposals for each issue identified by the team. The development of issues and action proposals is discussed in detail in the *Issues and Recommendations* section of this plan.

To evaluate proposed access actions, team members suggested using a list of 23 criteria that reflect those identified in the vision statement (Figure 1).

**Figure 1**

1. Likelihood that proposed action will impinge on values of solitude, openness and ruggedness
  2. Likelihood that this opportunity duplicates other similar opportunities in the park
  3. Likelihood that proposed action will increase potential user conflicts
  4. Level of impact on staff or management to implement the proposed action
  5. Likelihood that action will negatively impact visitor safety
  6. Degree of impact (inconsistency) with access-related objectives outlined in the RMP, WMP and other documents
  7. Level of facilities development needed for proposed action
  8. Level of impact required facilities and infrastructure will have on the island's natural and cultural features
  9. Budgetary Impacts
  10. Likelihood that proposal will require seasonal closures or alter current hours of use/ operation
  11. Level of impact on wildlife in the area
  12. Level of impact on area habitat (erosion, plant loss, etc.)
  13. Level of impact on cultural/ historic resources in the area
  14. Level of impact on archeological (prehistoric) resources in the area
  15. Probability that proposal will contribute to spread of noxious weeds
  16. Probability that proposal will increase fire danger
  17. Likelihood that the proposal could occur on other portions of the island that are already open
  18. Level of visitor information needed for effective implementation
  19. Potential for proposed action to increase/enhance education and interpretation opportunities
  20. Level of potential concessionaire involvement with the proposal
  21. Likelihood that the proposal will result in economic benefits to nearby communities/ counties
  22. Likelihood that the proposal will result in additional net revenues to the park
  23. Likelihood that partnerships, user groups and stakeholders can be an effective participant in this proposal
- NOTE: Criteria with a "positive" or "mitigating" score

The team decided that all proposed access actions would be evaluated using these criteria. The evaluative criteria were grouped into five subject areas: 1) Visitor Experience, 2) Management Concerns, 3) Resource Impacts, 4) Interpretive Needs, and 5) Economic Benefits. The team also recommended that staff identify individuals with expertise in each of these five subject areas to evaluate the impact of proposed actions. These “subject matter experts” would rate each proposed action using the criteria in the category of their expertise.

Each subject matter expert was presented with a matrix listing the proposed access actions and the corresponding evaluative criteria related to their area of expertise. They were asked to use the matrix to rate each proposed action using their specific criteria, and to comment on each action item. A matrix listing all 23 criteria is included as Appendix B. Each subject matter expert was asked to rate the impact of each proposed action upon the accepted criteria using a simple rating scale: Impacts were categorized as low, moderate or high. An example would be the Visitor Experience Subject Matter Expert rating all proposed actions as low, moderate or high impact for the following evaluative criteria: 1) Negative impact on island solitude, openness and ruggedness; 2) Likelihood the proposal duplicates other existing opportunities in the park (is not unique); 3) Likelihood the proposal will increase user conflicts; and 4) Likelihood that action will negatively impact visitor safety.

Upon completion, the ratings and comments from all subject matter experts were combined into a larger matrix (Appendix C). The combined matrix indicated the relative impact score, within each category, for each proposed action. This combined matrix was distributed to the entire team. Each team member was asked to review the combined matrix and indicate whether or not they would support the individual access actions. At a subsequent team meeting, the action proposals were discussed in detail and those included in the plan were agreed upon by consensus. All proposals with a high impact rating, with the exception of closing trails during adverse conditions, new trail segment 1d, provision for primitive campsites on the north trail system and lakeside, and access to Mormon Rocks, were not adopted by the team.

## Background Information

### Historic Use

An understanding of the park's historic attributes regarding access is essential to developing sound access recommendations that protect and celebrate these attributes. A brief summary is provided here. Several archeological sites present evidence of prehistoric Native American use of Antelope Island approximately 1000 years before the first European visitors arrived on the island. The exact purpose and extent of use by early Native American cultures is not fully understood, but evidence of prehistoric camps and food processing has been documented at Mushroom Springs and Headbanger Cave. Similarly, there is evidence of historic use by Chief Wanship's band of Ute Indians as recorded by John C. Fremont in his 1845 excursion to Antelope Island.

From 1848 to 1979, Antelope Island's predominate use and development centered on commercial ranching with limited, private recreation. In the late 1960s, a causeway was constructed from Syracuse to the north end of the island. In 1969 what is commonly known as the North 2000 acres (of the 28,000 acre island) was purchased by Utah State Parks and Recreation. The remaining 26,000 acres, with the exclusion of two small areas owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), were purchased in 1981. By the early 1980s, the roads on the North 2000 were paved; the first marina had been constructed; the day use and campground facilities were built in Bridger Bay and White Rock Bay; and an OHV "playground" was in use on the beaches of White Rock Bay. However, public access was limited to the northern tip of Antelope Island, while the island's remaining 26,000 acres was held in private ownership and off limits to park visitors. The northern causeway was the main access route to Antelope Island. In 1983 all development and public recreation on Antelope Island ceased when the causeway was washed out by the floodwaters of the Great Salt Lake. The island remained closed for 10 years with the only access being boat or barge.

In 1991 plans to rebuild the causeway were drafted and construction on this improved causeway began in 1992. Antelope Island State Park formally opened its doors to the public in July of 1993. After 10 years without a causeway for access, the park was in need of major renovation.

In early 1993 the park's infrastructure, water, sewer, and electrical was repaired and improved. In the subsequent years Antelope Island facilities were either renovated or developed to the current levels.

### Impacts from Increased Visitation

Non-motorized trail use has emerged as one of Antelope Island's most popular recreational activities. 38% of visitors have used the trails on Antelope Island, listing hiking as their primary

trail activity (Antelope Island State Park Visitor Survey Report, 2000). Antelope Island provides approximately 35 miles of trails offering visitors a wide array of recreational

opportunities and experiences. Not only do the trails provide a variety of terrain with outstanding scenic views, users have the opportunity to encounter native and migratory wildlife, geological formations or historic sites. These opportunities in such close proximity to a major metropolitan area are rare indeed. The trail opportunities on Antelope Island are unique and open to the public year round.

Increasing numbers of hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrian users are taking advantage of this expansive and unique trail system. However, with the increasing popularity of Antelope's trail system, new problems have surfaced. Park managers note increases in depreciative behavior among trail users. For example, conflict between competing user groups is becoming more frequent. Visitors often express concerns about crowding on trails because of the increased use. Increasing numbers of users are not staying on designated trails and sometimes engage in the illegal collection of cultural artifacts or natural resources.

In addition to these behavioral concerns, increased use may be disturbing the park's natural resource base. Park managers note that increased human presence on trails cause wildlife to move away from adjacent critical habitat areas. It has also led to impacts on the quality of the Island's limited water sources - a problem that is particularly acute with off-trail use.

Antelope Island trails require a high degree of maintenance to prevent soil erosion, promote safety in trail operations and ensure proper use. Maintenance requirements are proportionate with increases in trail use. However, funding and staff remain at a constant, minimal level resulting in an increasing maintenance burden upon park staff. New and existing trails need to take these points into consideration.

### **Current Trail Management Policies**

Current trail management practices center on information, education and staff involvement. As visitors enter the park they receive informational brochures describing the parks trail system and its natural and cultural attributes. At each trailhead, signs are posted to orient a visitor with basic information such as trail length, direction and closures. Trailhead signs also provide interpretive information about relevant historical topics and natural/physical features. Most importantly, these signs inform users about safety, trail/park rules as well as explain why visitors need to protect park resources. Park managers note that properly informed trail users will typically comply with established rules and regulations.

A human presence is maintained on Antelope Island trails by park rangers, a volunteer trail patrol (about 40 members) and other members of the law enforcement community. Trail patrollers are trained in CPR, basic first aid and are taught basic conservation principles. These

volunteers attend a four-hour orientation about park rules, ethics, park history, and island wildlife.

As demands for trail use continue to increase, future management guidelines must thoroughly address impacts. The appropriateness of expanding the park's trail system is an issue that is explored by this plan. Planning for such expansion includes a thorough evaluation of the impacts that new trails may have on critical resources. Careful consideration must also be given to trail design and alignment as new trails are developed.

This plan is not the first examination of Antelope Island's trails. Public Input and previous research and planning efforts provide guidance for this Access Management Plan (AMP). The Key documents are the 1994 RMP, the 1997 Interpretive and Site Plan for Fielding Garr Ranch, the 1997 Backcountry Trail Management Plan, the 1999 Visitor Experience and Resource Protection study (VERP) and the 2000 Visitor Survey.

## **Public Input and Survey Research**

The Utah Division of Parks and Recreation and University of Utah volunteers conducted the 2000 Visitor Survey on Antelope Island on April 29, 2000. The purpose of this study was to explore visitor opinions regarding the proposal before the State Parks Board to introduce a limited public mule deer hunt on the Island.

Participants were asked questions about the use, management and development of Antelope Island Trails. Results are summarized as follows:

- 74% had used a trail on Antelope Island
- Visitors appear to be very concerned about the availability of information about park trails, e.g., maps and appropriate use on trails
- Three quarters of those responding indicated that the ability to view wildlife from Island trails is very important
- In general, respondents were concerned about overuse of Antelope Island trails: negative impacts on wildlife and vegetation; trail damage from excessive use; overcrowding, etc.
- A majority of survey respondents (50%) stated that this was their first visit to the Island.
- Approximately 20 percent visit once a year, and 18 percent frequent the Island every other year or less.
- Less than 10 percent of respondents visit the island twice per year.
- A majority of survey respondents (81.7%) stated that they planned on staying on the Island for 1 day or less.

Visitors were asked the following questions in regard to their trip(s) to Antelope Island:

*Question:* What Recreational Activities Do You Engage In During A Typical Visit?

*Response:* The top recreation activities among survey respondents include sightseeing (77.3%), wildlife viewing (59.1%), hiking (50%) and biking (40.9%). Other popular activities included picnicking, camping, and visiting historical sites.

*Question:* What Is Your Primary Recreational Activity On The Island?

*Response:* Visitors to the Island engaged primarily in sightseeing (26.3%). Other popular activities were swimming, hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, and camping.

*Question:* What City/Town Are You From?

*Response:* A majority of survey respondents were from Salt Lake City, Utah (31.6%). Others were from Layton, Sandy, Logan, and Ogden, and from other areas not located along the Wasatch Front.

*Question:* What State Are You From?

*Response:* A vast majority of survey respondents were from Utah (73.7%). Other states represented were Montana, Pennsylvania, and New Mexico

*Question:* What Is Your Age?

*Response:* A majority of survey respondents were between the ages of 18 and 25. Ages ranged from 18 to 54. The mean age was 45.6 years.

Participants in the 2000 Visitor Survey indicated that the public should have increased access to the Island (AISPVS, p14, Appendix D). When asked what their greatest concerns about trails and trail use on Antelope Island, participants responded that more trails are needed on the South end. Some participants stated that access to the Island should continue to be on trail only with no off-trail use allowed while others stated that they would like to see off-trail access adopted on the Island (AISPVS, p11). Participants also voiced their desire for multi-use trails (AISPVS Appendix A, p29).

Referring to the public's interest in these areas, survey research found that a visitor's ability to access east side areas is important. Visitors were asked if they had ever visited any of the key east side sites. If so, they were asked to identify the types of activities they participated in. Respondents were also asked to describe their level of awareness with various policies and programs concerning resource protection and interpretive/educational information. Results are summarized as follows:

Respondent visitation rates for the following sites are as follows:

- 58.1 percent had visited the **Fielding Garr Ranch**
- 48.0 percent had visited the **Mountain View Trail**
- 36.0 percent had visited the **Frary Peak Trail**
- 45.3 percent had visited the **Frary Peak Trailhead/Overlook**
- More than two-thirds of the respondents indicated sightseeing and wildlife viewing as their preferred east-side activity.
- 76 percent of the respondents listed at least some awareness with east-side resource protection restrictions
- 65.7 percent indicated at least some awareness of the interpretive signs on auto pullouts along the Garr Ranch road
- 67.5 percent indicated at least some awareness of the interpretive/educational information provided at the Garr Ranch
- 60 percent indicated at least some awareness of the interpretive/educational information

- 49.3 percent indicated some knowledge of the hours of operation or the Garr Ranch Road.

### **Management of Antelope Island's East side**

There is concern among park managers about preserving the area's natural and cultural values in light of increased visitation. Several problems have recently surfaced:

- There is concern with public access to natural and cultural sites that have not been designated nor secured for public use. In particular, illegal collection of historical or natural artifacts.
- The level of visitor safety, particularly with bicyclists on the main road and visitor interaction with bison.

Another concern is the potential impacts from unmonitored use at Fielding Garr Ranch. The ranch attracts large numbers of visitors - approximately one thousand on weekends. Concerns specific to the Ranch include:

- Determining the number of daily visitors that the site can handle without impacting the resources.
- Determining what type of additional educational/interpretive opportunities are appropriate.

Antelope Island's east side was recently opened for public use. The east side contains many of the scenic, natural and recreational features that draw visitors to the park. However, it also contains a wealth of sites relating to human history. One of the east side's most prominent features is the Fielding Garr Ranch. The ranch and adjacent areas contain many significant historic/prehistoric resources that provide visitors with a broad perspective of human history.

Evidence of human life is clearly apparent on the Island's east side - from lithic (related to or composed of stone: "lithic sandstone") scatters to hearth remnants, charred and carved animal bones, grinding tools, home foundations, china fragments, whiskey bottles and organ reeds - many human stories are represented. These are found both in the form of scattered, unstructured sites and intact residences. Ongoing investigations reveal additional sites once inhabited by Fremont and Late Prehistoric peoples. Remnants from the east side link visitors with a span of cultural history dating back approximately 6,000 years.

The value of each cultural site on Antelope Island's east side is directly proportional to its authenticity. Preserved sites allow great insight into what life was really like for the people who lived there. Therefore, interpretive plans and development guidelines - instituted through a recent planning process - recommend preserving the sites authentic flavor.<sup>1</sup> These guidelines provide direction in helping staff balance site preservation and interpretation with visitor service. They also recommend that development be spare and consistent with each site's remote, rural, agricultural origins. This is especially important at the Garr Ranch.

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<sup>1</sup> State of Utah, Antelope Island Fielding Garr Ranch, Interpretive and Site Plan: Utah Division of Parks and Recreation, Oct. 1997

With expanded access managers are challenged with the problem of preserving sensitive areas – historic sites, natural features and adjacent habitat - while providing visitors with a chance to learn about and experience those essential components of a specific site. Managers are also concerned about carrying capacity, i.e., how many visitors does it take to physically impact or diminish the overall experience? What types of interpretive techniques will capture the public's attention and desire to learn about the site's history? How can visitors be provided access without compromising the sites protection? Should all sites be accessible?

Clearly, park managers are enthused about the increased public interest in Antelope Island's east site. At the same time, they are also concerned about how to effectively balance increasing visitor demands with the need to protect and preserve the area's vast cultural and natural resources.

### **Backcountry Trail Management Plan**

A master plan for trail use - a recommendation put forth in the Antelope Island RMP - was issued in 1997 to help identify potential trails on the island.<sup>2</sup> It recommends involving trail users or others with an interest in preserving natural areas to collaboratively address trail-related issues. It also identifies the interrelationship between trail use and critical resources, particularly those related to wildlife impacts: winter range, birth and rearing areas, movement corridors and required cover and shade.

The purpose of the trail plan was to develop a means for visitors to utilize the southern end of the island while minimizing impacts to resources, particularly wildlife resources. In order to accomplish these goals the resources were evaluated and a map of environmental constraints was developed. Considerations ranged from issues such as sensitive habitats to potential safety problems that recreationists might encounter. A map of opportunities was then developed to determine the most desirable location for trails. The final trail plan was developed based on maximizing opportunities while minimizing impacts. The Access Management Planning Team adopted many of the conceptual recommendations issued in this plan. Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP) study

The Division of Parks and Recreation entered into a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism (IORT) at Utah State University to conduct research that would help identify a balance point between recreation needs and resource protection at Antelope Island. The VERP (Visitor Experience and Resource Protection) study was conducted May-October 1999. The survey was intended to measure visitors' satisfactions, preferences, and concerns regarding their experiences at Antelope Island and management actions taken at the park. Particular attention was paid to experiences in the backcountry areas of the park (the 80% of Antelope Island located south of the buffalo fence).

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<sup>2</sup> SWCA Environmental Consultants Inc., Antelope Island SP Back Country Trail Management Plan: Salt Lake City, Utah, May 1997



From 1992 until 1998 visitors were mainly confined to the northern 20% of the island that contains the park's developed facilities. The only exception was a network of trails leading to a

portion of the island's west shore directly south of the "buffalo fence" that bisects the island from southeast to northwest, and periodic special openings of a gravel road leading to Fielding Garr Ranch of the island's southeast shore. In spring 1999, however, the east shore road was paved and new roadside interpretive sites were added. A lakeside hiker/bicycle/horseback trail was completed linking the north end with the ranch, and a separate hiker-only trail was opened that leads to the top of Frary Peak, the highest point on the island.

Results for this study are summarized as follows:

- The more developed north end was four times more likely to be visited than any backcountry location with Buffalo Point being the most frequently visited north end location
- The White Rock Bay backcountry trails were the most frequently visited location south of the buffalo fence.
- The heaviest use occurred during holidays and weekends.
- 40% of visitors came from outside of Utah, including about 8% who live outside the United States.
- The most popular activities for both areas were wildlife viewing, picnicking, hiking and bird watching.
- Trail users were primarily hikers, bicyclists or horseback riders with hikers being the most common.
- Satisfaction levels were found to be high for both areas of the park.

Visitors were asked how they felt about current management practices. A majority of respondents found that current practices were about right. Although, north end users did feel there were too few facilities and trail users felt the number of trails was inadequate.

Trail users voiced the desire to have greater opportunities to enjoy backcountry hiking, bicycling and horseback riding in the park. One way to increase trail opportunities would be through the development of short spur trails, especially where they might provide better access to viewpoints or resting places. For example, the Frary Peak trail passes on the level for several hundred yards along the east side of the ridge north of the peak before rising to a point where hikers can see across to the west side of the Great Salt Lake.

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# Issues and Recommendations

The recommendations developed by the planning team are at the core of this plan. The recommendations presented in this section will achieve the team's goals as outlined in the mission and vision statements to:

- Improve public access on the Island
  - Minimize potential development actions to preserve the island's solitude, openness and ruggedness.
  - Clearly define general access in terms of hours of (park) operation.
  - Promote better relations with the local community
  - Boost visitation and revenue

A number of issues covering areas from interpretation, education and information; recreation access opportunities; reducing impacts from additional recreation access; promotion, coordination and outreach; staffing/funding/operations; and infrastructure development were addressed in the plan. Each of these issues was identified by various sources including input from planning team members and subject matter experts.

Team members identified 23 major issues that were aggregated into eight distinct categories. These categories were transposed into the evaluative matrix described above (see Appendix B to view the complete matrix) to ensure that recommendations conform to the team's mission. A specific description or statement summarizing each issues or problem was constructed to clearly identify and articulate the problem at hand.

A number of constraints (e.g., available funding, sufficiency of staff, facility location and design, and state regulations, etc.) were identified as some of the limiting factors that may hinder implementation of a specific team recommendation. From these issues, and with the constraints in mind, the planning team developed and adopted specific recommendations. Team members made a concerted effort to ensure that recommendations are consistent with the team's mission and vision statements.

The eight issue areas forming the basis of the team's recommendations include:

1. General park access
2. Closures on trail systems
3. Access along southern tip road
4. Provision of open access areas
5. New trail opportunities
6. Camping
7. Archeological/historic site access
8. Proposed facilities development

Team members made their recommendations on the basis of a use area map adopted by the team. The map relies heavily on recreation spatial categories with an emphasis on wildlife habitat. Team member Kirk Nichols, the map's author, based the areas on existing categories and then combined these areas with an island-wide wildlife habitat map provided by Steve Bates and Greg Mortenson, the park's wildlife managers.

The resulting map divides the island into five recreation areas: open recreation (OR), recreation corridors in wildlife habitat (RCW), recreation shore in wildlife habitat (RSW), restricted recreation – entry by permit (RRW), and limited entry - critical wildlife habitat (LE). There are two important points associated with this zoning concept:

- All areas, with the exception of open recreation, will require users to complete a short training session and obtain a permit from the Visitor's Center prior to access. Users are required to remain on designated trails.
- Any and all trails that pass through critical wildlife habitat will be closed during birthing seasons.

Open recreation (OR) areas do not require a permit for access. The open recreation areas include the northern 2,000 acres and the Fielding Garr Ranch. The purposed marsh/pickleweed boardwalk (new trail 5) lies within the northern 2,000 acres and will be accessed off the road southwest of the Park office at the existing trailhead. Special events such as Buffalo Days are classified as open recreation even though they may not take place within the designated open recreation areas.

Recreation corridors in wildlife habitat (RCW) consist of open trails and road corridors. This area will encompass approximately one-third to one-half of the island directly south of the northern 2,000 acres and on the east side to Unicorn Point. The trail spurs (new trail 3), off the existing Mountain View Trail, to the Frary Gravesite and Mulberry Grove lie within this area. The proposed trailhead for the new trails (1a – 1e) at the gravel overflow parking area for the Fielding Garr Ranch is also located within this designation.

Recreation shore in wildlife habitat (RSW) is a 200-foot shoreline area for water-based access. The west shore begins at the boundary fence and runs southward to just north of the Picture Rock/Indian Bay area. The limited entry, critical wildlife habitat area in the southwest corner of the island near Westside Spring is not included in the recreation shore in wildlife habitat designated area. The east shore begins at the boundary fence and extends south/southwesterly to the Indian Bay area. Due to wildlife concerns either the entire eastside shore will be closed from April until September or specific landing points will be designated that minimize impact on wildlife.

Areas designated as restricted recreation, entry by permit (RRW) require registration and education, similar to that required by Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, to obtain a permit for access. These areas are located on the island's western areas near Redrock Canyon, Cambria Springs, and Buffalo Scaffold Canyon. They continue eastward to the Sentry and then south toward Unicorn Point, east of Westside Springs. The majority of the new trails (1a-1e) lie within this designation.

Limited entry - critical wildlife habitat (LE) areas are located in the island's "Central Highlands" along Daddy Stump Ridge and also around the Westside Spring area on the southwest corner of the island. Trail access should not be allowed in these areas due to the negative impact that human presence can have on wildlife.

The spatial categories map was presented to the team for approval. Team members adopted this map as the conceptual foundation for the recommendations of this plan.

A discussion of specific team issues and recommendations under each issue area follows.

## **I. General Park Access**

At the onset of the planning process, team members set a goal to develop an access management plan that will allow increased Island access while still preserving the values of solitude, openness and ruggedness. The team wanted to provide visitors more amenable and convenient access options. Put simply, to make it easier for the public to access the island.

Proposed general park access actions consistent with this goal include:

- Proposed hours for the main gate
- Consideration of “after hours” activities
- When visitors will be asked to leave the park
- Closure policies impacting the “Nine-Mile Gate” near Fielding Garr Ranch

The team’s general park access recommendations will work towards increases in park accessibility.

### **Issue Area: General Park Access**

#### **Key Issues:**

- C The hours for the main gate (opening and closing) need to be established.
- C Consider “after hours” activities at the Visitor Center and Garr Ranch
- C Determine the hours that the “Nine-Mile Gate” should be opened and closed

### **Issue: Main Gate Hours of Operation**

Team members expressed concerns that the current hours of operation may not allow visitors adequate time to enjoy the park.

Currently the main gate opens at 7:00am and closes at 6:00pm in January and February; 7:00pm in March; 9:00pm in April; 10:00pm in May, June, July, and August; 9:00pm in September; 7:00pm in October; and 6:00pm in November and December.

### **Recommendations**

The team adopted subcommittee recommendation that the hours of operation should follow or conform more closely to hours specified in park policy which are defined by UDPR Administrative Guidelines, Opening and Closing of Parks, pp.1 -2, 11/1/87.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Minimum operating schedules for park areas are as follows: Park areas shall be open daily to the visiting public for boating, fishing, picnicking and sightseeing from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. April 1 through September 30, and from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. October 1 through March 31, except when approved for seasonal closure.

The specific recommendation is that the main gate hours will be:

Open at 6:00am

Close at 10:00pm, April through September

8:00pm, October and March

7:00pm, November and February

6:00pm, December and January

There was some concern that the purposed schedule may be hard for visitors to keep track of. As a result, the team recommended a reevaluation of this proposal after a six-month trial period. It was suggested that two additional proposals be combined with this one. They were:

- *Proposal*  
Once visitors enter the gate for day use, they will not be asked to leave the park until 10:00pm
- *Recommendation*  
State Park guidelines should be followed and that visitors should leave the park when the gate closes
- *Proposal*  
Park staff should work with late-arriving campers with reservations to ensure that campers can access their campsite (a current problem in the late fall and winter months when gate is closed early); team members noted that Friday nights seem to be the problem
- *Recommendation*  
Management should assess whether staff should stay later to accommodate late arrivals

### **Issue: “After Hours” Activities at the Visitor’s Center and Ranch**

Several user groups and special interest groups have voiced interest in holding events after regular park operating hours. The proposal was to consider “after hours” activities at the Visitor Center and Ranch.

### **Recommendations**

The team adopted the following recommendations:

Park management must review and approve all “after hours” activities and events. Staff must host the activities. Consider approved after-hours events for the entire Park, not just at the Visitor’s Center or Ranch. Management needs to establish guidelines for approved activities held at the Ranch and Visitor’s Center.

### **Issue: Closure of the Nine-Mile Gate**

The nine-mile gate (see Plate 1) is located on the east side of the island south of the Frary Gravesite. Presently, one of the main functions of the nine-mile gate is to control access to the Garr Ranch. There were several purposed actions in regards to the nine-mile gate. Team members considered the following options:

- Option 1: Follow current policy of closing this gate at the same closing times for the Ranch (9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. May 16 through Sept. 15, and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sept. 16 through May 15).
- Option 2: Leave gate open continuously.

- Option 3: Leave gate open for longer periods on specified days of the week. Example, on Saturday and Sunday, leave gate open until 10:00 p.m. Staff must be at the Ranch to protect ranch area and sensitive cultural resources and provide assistance for safety and patrol purposes.

## **Recommendations**

The team commented that additional funding/staff would be required if the gate was open additional hours;

They proposed that the gate simply be open when staff are at the ranch as an alternative to the listed options (Option 1 with the caveat that if a staff member arrives before regular opening hours, then the staff member will go ahead and open the gate). Team members noted that staff includes certified volunteers.

## **II. Closures On Trail Systems**

Sections of the existing trail system on Antelope Island are subject to seasonal closures. These closures correspond to the calving, lambing and fawning seasons of the varied wildlife that populate the island. Trail closures also need to be considered when safety and resource damage concerns arise.

### **Issue Area: Closures on Trail Systems**

#### **Key Issues:**

- ❑ Annual seasonal closures due to pronghorn fawning and bighorn lambing
- ❑ Define needed closures for new, approved trails
- ❑ Determine appropriate conditions for trail closures

### **Issue: Annual Seasonal Closures Due To Pronghorn Fawning and Bighorn Lambing**

Presently there are annual seasonal closures on the Mountain View Trail due to pronghorn fawning from the north trailhead to the Frary Peak trailhead for approximately one month between May 15 and June 16 (actual dates may vary). The Frary Peak Trail is also closed from April 20 to the Memorial Day weekend (approximately) for bighorn lambing. This closure also helps mitigate various law enforcement problems.

## **Recommendation**

Team members recommended that the annual seasonal closures be maintained. Management stated

that these actions would represent “business as usual”. It was suggested that better signage and advertising of these closures are needed to raise park visitors’ awareness.

### **Issue: Determine Appropriate Conditions For Trail Closures**

Several issues need to be considered in the development of a new trail. The subject matter experts note that wildlife and resource impacts shall be examined prior to the construction of any new trails. Again, adequate signage and relevant information are necessary components of any trail. They promote visitor safety, resource protection, and good user etiquette. Users assume risk when they make the decision to travel on any trail in the State Park system. Even so, management bears the brunt of complaints if anything happens to a visitor on the trail. Conditions that pose a risk or danger to visitors need to be identified. When such conditions exist, trails should be closed to general use. Conditions that increase the probability of resource damage also warrant trail closures.

### **Recommendations**

The team adopted the following recommendations:

- Once new trails are identified and approved for access, trail closures should be implemented as appropriate. The team stated that if a trail is identified and approved for access, it is only reasonable to define when closures would be needed to protect resources.
- The park, at their discretion, should close trails during muddy conditions, flood periods or where use may result in damage or safety hazards. If possible, staff should recommend other alternative trails for use during such closures.
- It was also recommended that park management consult with state risk management and suggested guidelines be developed for trail closure when the probability of lightning is high. Signage, commensurate with guidelines, should be considered.
- Park staff should consider periodic trail closures when erosion is a problem or when there is a need for trail reconstruction. When the closure-for-reconstruction need is long term, provide alternative routes on existing trails, where possible.

## **III. Access Along the Southern Tip Road**

Access along the southern side of the island is limited for the general visitor. The public has expressed interest and desire in increased ‘open’ access on the southern section of the island. Presently the only public access allowed is by limited/guided tours.

### **Issue Area: Access Along the Southern Tip Road**

#### **Key Issues:**

- ☐ Stabilize Road Surface
- ☐ Southern Tip Road Access



**Issue: Stabilize Existing Road Surface Near McIntyre Springs**

The proposal presented to the team was to resolve the problematic mud-“bog” area on the road to Southern Tip/Unicorn Point near McIntyre Springs. Currently, water runoff/seepage from the nearby springs makes the road virtually impassible and may also serve to accelerate the spread and transportation of noxious weeds via mud sticking to vehicles or other transport. Management suggests this concern be resolved irrespective of types of access allowed on road. Actions should ensure that the quality of the spring is preserved. Some members of the team voiced concern that cleaning up this area might result in increased traffic and an increased chance that the historic sites south of this area could be impacted.

**Recommendation**

Team members recommended that the division improve the alignment by installation of culverts, channels or other measures to ensure stability of the existing roadway. Such actions must not negatively impact adjacent springs.

**Issue: Southern Tip Road Access**

The team was presented with several options dealing with access along the southern tip road. The options were:

- Maintain current closed access status of road (i.e., no public access except limited/guided tours).
- Provide guided access on the existing road (currently, the public may participate in limited guided tours using concessionaire-provided horses only). Under this option, the public may participate in guided hiking, biking or horseback riding (and may utilize their own horses).
- Open the road at specified times and periods, for example, during special events or occasions. Access under this option should be guided/monitored (monitored times, special events).

**Recommendations**

Team members suggested that the road be opened to “monitored” events and limited special events. The team suggested a permit-based system of access. It was also recommended that van tours continue to be allowed.

After careful review of the proposed options, the team suggested the trailhead be located at the overflow gravel parking area for the Fielding Garr Ranch (See Plate 1). The parking area is a natural trailhead for access of west side trails as existing trails/corridors begin from this point. This recommendation also facilitates access to new trail opportunities adopted by the team (see New Trail Opportunities, pp 30-32).

**IV. Provision of Open Access Areas**

The public expressed interest in increased open access on the island. Open access is defined as non-permitted on or off-trail use. Currently the north 2000 acres are the only area on the island designated as open access.

**Issue Area: Provision of Open Access Areas**

Key Issue:

- ☐ Maintain current policies

**Issue: Open Access Areas**

Currently, the only area where open access is allowed is in the north 2000 acres of the park. The southern portion of the island is opened to the public during Buffalo Days (one-day event) and the Buffalo Round-up (four-day event).

**Recommendations**

It was proposed that the park maintain current policies providing open access for the north 2000 acres and southern portion on Buffalo Days (one-day event) and the Buffalo Round-up (four-days). It was also recommended that the division consider strategies to enhance staff to more effectively manage these events.

**V. New Trail Opportunities**

Increased access necessitates the development of new trails. These trails would be intended primarily for hikers, bicyclists and equestrians. Designated trails are necessary to prevent unauthorized access and subsequent damage to sensitive resources.

**Issue Area: New Trail Opportunities**

Key Issues:

- ☐ Develop a southern/backcountry trail system
- ☐ Develop a "History Trail"
- ☐ Develop trail spurs from the Mountain View trail to the Frary Grave and Mulberry Grove sites
- ☐ Develop a marsh/pickleweed boardwalk/interpretive walk
- ☐ Develop a trail to Dooley Knob

**Issue: Development Of A Southern/Backcountry Trail System**

Team members determined that access, via designated trails, should be provided on the southern portion of the island. The major trailhead would be located at the overflow gravel parking area for

the Fielding Garr Ranch. This location's effects on the Fielding Garr Ranch will be monitored for the period of one year, after which the feasibility of moving the trailhead further south will be considered. The system would mostly utilize existing service roads.

Team members were presented with several options for this proposed trail system (Please refer to **Plate 1** for location-reference information). The options are listed by number, which correspond to the numbers on the trails map. These trails provide access to areas previously not available to the public, views of the west side of the island and wildlife, and more challenging hiking, bicycling and equestrian experiences.

- 1a. Trail segment from ranch to the Sentry on existing dirt road from ranch. Appropriate actions should be taken to protect the Mushroom Springs site
- 1b. Trail segment from ranch to Sentry (same as segment 1, above) to Westside Springs utilizing existing service roads
- 1c. Trail segment from ranch to the point where the existing road diverges below Sentry that leads toward Buffalo Scaffold Canyon and forks toward the west side shore
- 1d. Trail segment from ranch to the point where the existing road diverges below Sentry that leads to Buffalo Scaffold Canyon and forks northward passing by Buffalo Scaffold Canyon, Dry Canyon, Red Rocks Canyon, Mormon Rocks and Split Rock Bay and connects to the existing Split Rock trail system
- 1e. Daddy Stump Ridge Loop utilizing the same segment described in option a, with the loop beginning at the Sentry and extending southward along the Bonneville Terrace southward to Molly's Nipple and return (to Sentry)

## **Recommendations**

- 1a. The team recommended that this trail segment would be appropriate for development. No access should be provided to the Mushroom Springs site unless specified in an interpretive plan for the site. Mitigation efforts to protect the site should be instituted.
- 1b. Team members recommended that this segment not be adopted due to the trails encroachment into limited entry area (LE), proximity to Westside Springs, which is an important water source for wildlife, and passage through critical pronghorn habitat (See Plate 1). The team recommended instead reclaiming this segment and that access should not be allowed on this segment.
- 1c. The team recommended that this segment should be monitored closely for erosion. There were safety concerns for users. As a result, users will be educated about the safety concerns specific to this area during the permitting process. Team members stated that this is a very steep/difficult section.
- 1d. The team recommended that this segment should be adopted in principle. Team members stated that there is a need for further, more in-depth study before the segment is opened to the general public.
- 1e. Team members felt that this segment should be adopted in principle, but that there is a need for further, more in-depth study before the segment is opened to the general public. Specifically closure of this segment from mid-September until March for mule deer requires further study.

## **Issue: Trail Spurs to the Frary and Mulberry Grove Sites**

A "History" trail is a trail system or network that would connect several sites of historical and/or cultural significance. Each of the historic sites along this trail would be interpreted as

appropriate. As an alternative to the “History Trail”, the suggestion was to develop trail spurs from the existing Mountain View trail to Frary and Mulberry Grove sites (Please see Plate 1,

Proposed Trail 3). It was stated that this alternative would reduce impacts on wildlife and would also minimize erosion potential as compared with the proposed history trail.

## **Recommendations**

The team recommended adopting these trail spurs contingent on a more in-depth study on soil impacts including stabilization of sites and trails. Access to sensitive sites will be allowed only after the interpretative plan is completed and corresponding actions (archeological survey, etc.) are taken to secure sensitive resources.

### **Issue: Marsh/Pickleweed Boardwalk/Interpretive Walk**

The team proposed development of a marsh/pickleweed boardwalk/interpretive walk (for foot traffic only) near White Rock Bay group campsites.

## **Recommendations**

The team recommended that this proposal be adopted (Please see Plate 1, Proposed Trail 5).

### **Issue: Trail to Dooley Knob**

The team proposed development of a trail to Dooley Knob with a trailhead at the existing Frary Peak trailhead. The trail would be for hiking only.

## **Recommendations**

The team recommended that this proposal be adopted (Please see Plate 1, Proposed Trail 6).

## **VI. Camping**

The team recommended that additional camping opportunities are needed in areas that do not presently have campsites. Team members developed recommendations for backcountry, equestrian, and boat camping as well as, more developed camping opportunities as access is expanded. Feasibility studies should be completed for any proposed campsites.

### **Issue Area: Camping**

#### **Key Issues:**

- ☐ Walk-in tent site/camping area below the Visitor’s Center
- ☐ Expand Bridger Bay campground
- ☐ Provide overnight horse stabling
- ☐ Provide for boat camping in the marina
- ☐ Provide overnight parking for boat campers
- ☐ Backcountry/primitive campsites
- ☐ Special event camping near the Garr Ranch

**Issue: Developed Camping Opportunities**

The team proposed development of a walk-in tent site/camping area on the north end of the beach below the Visitor's Center. The team also proposed expansion of the existing Bridger Bay campground, with the possible development of a second loop for this highly utilized area.

**Recommendations**

The team's recommendation is to examine the feasibility of the site on north end of the beach below the Visitor's Center versus other sites. By examining a number of sites the location that best serves the needs of the public and management will be chosen. The team also recommended that the Bridger Bay campground be expanded.

**Issue: Facilitation of Equestrian Camper Needs**

Presently overnight equestrian campers do not have access to stables for their own horses. Equestrian activities are quite popular on the island and overnight access to stable facilities would serve the needs of these users. The proposal is to provide overnight horse stabling for campers staying in established campsites. The proposed location for the stable would be near the buffalo corral located at Fielding Garr Ranch (Please see Plate 1).

**Recommendations**

The team recommended that stable facilities be provided for equestrian campers.

**Issue: Boat Camping and Overnight Parking for Boat Campers**

Team members proposed the provision of boat camping in the marina. This would allow boaters to stay overnight on their boats. Currently boaters must either limit their activities to day use or get a campsite if they choose to stay overnight. Overnight boaters will need parking. These overnight boat campers' vehicles will need to be differentiated from day use visitors' vehicles.

**Recommendations**

The team recommended that boat camping in the marina be allowed. Team members, for safety and security reasons, recommended a permit system/process for overnight boater parking. Boat campers can purchase an overnight parking permit, to be displayed in their vehicle, at the marina.

**Issue: Provide Backcountry/Primitive Campsites**

Backcountry is defined as the southern 26,000 acres of the island for the purpose of this document. Primitive refers to undeveloped or limited service facilities. A primitive campsite may have access to a composting toilet, picnic shelter and tent pad. These campsites will not have water or electricity hookups, flushing toilet or shower facilities. The team recommended that these sites should be offered by permit due to their location in the southern 26,000 acres of the island. These sites should be tied to the proposed West Side trail system and should also provide for "boat-in" access. Team

members stated that open fires should not be allowed, and that encroachment of wildlife near area springs should be minimized.

The proposed locations for these campsites are:

- Split Rock Bay
- Lakeside near Red Rocks Canyon
- Lakeside near Cambria Point
- Buffalo Scaffold Canyon near the “Old Cowboy Campsite”/Cedar Springs area

## **Recommendations**

The team recommended primitive campsites on the North trail system, located in the northern open recreation area (See Plate 1) and lakeside, located in the western recreation shore in wildlife habitat area (See Plate 1). Team members will visit each of the proposed locations to determine their feasibility as campsites.

## **Issue: Special Event Camping Near the Garr Ranch**

The proposal is to provide special event camping near the Garr Ranch, on the island’s south end or near the Frary Peak trailhead parking area. Examples of special events that encourage overnight camping include equestrian endurance rides and Concession-guided camping among others.

## **Recommendations**

The team recommended keeping special event camping ‘as is’, meaning that special events are considered on an event-by-event basis. Park management will be responsible for deciding which special events are held and if camping will be allowed in conjunction with the events. Team members specifically recommended continuing the annual Buffalo Round-up special event.

## **VII. Archeological/Historic Site Access**

Archeological sites require special treatment and attention. There are certain requirements that must be considered for archeological and historic sites. Kevin Jones, State Archeologist provided a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that defines agency responsibilities pursuant to Utah Code (9-8-404). The MOA requires State Parks to consult with State History to ensure that potential planning or development actions meet the minimum standards for complying with state cultural resource protection laws. All sites with archeological resources - Garr Ranch, Frary Homestead, Headbanger Cave, Mushroom Springs, and others - need to be evaluated if access is to be allowed in their proximity. The team stated that there is a need to enhance education, interpretation and information programs to provide user groups with sufficient education about the need to preserve island resources for future users. Team members recommended that this be accomplished by forming an Antelope Island Comprehensive Interpretive Team to develop a comprehensive interpretive plan for the island as per the recommendations specified in the Antelope Island RMP. This team should accomplish the following goals:

- Assess existing programs and resources, coordinate programs and resources to work and complement each other; Consolidate existing/previous interpretive planning efforts

- Identify user groups, and then determine information, education and interpretation needs for each group.
- Establish goals, objectives and methods for interpretive needs (general and education), specifically as they relate to access needs; focus on hands-on experiences.
- Ensure that sufficient interpretive planning is developed before access is provided at sites with sensitive resources. Adequate education should be required for special use (special events, special use) as defined by park management
- Identify educational and interpretive resources that the island provides
- The interpretive plan should make recommendations for orientation and training of park staff
- Identify potential revenue sources to carry out goals
- Measurable outcomes of the interpretive plan will include the following: Products (e.g., brochures, signage), field testing of plan via interviews/questionnaires for users and management to assess effectiveness; apply this feedback to improve process

**Issue Area: Archeological/Historic Site Access****Key Issues:**

- ☐ Allow access to the Frary Grave Site
- ☐ Allow access to the Mushroom Springs Site
- ☐ Allow access to the Mulberry Grove area
- ☐ Allow access to the Stone Corral Site
- ☐ Allow access to Unicorn Point
- ☐ Allow access to Mormon Rocks

**Issue: Access to Archeological/Historic Sites**

The team proposed completion of site protection efforts (archeological surveys), via the comprehensive interpretative plan, prior to allowing access to any and all proposed sites including the following:

- Frary Grave site
- Mushroom Springs site
- Mulberry Grove Area
- Stone Corral site
- Unicorn Point
- Mormon Rocks

**Recommendations**

The team recommended that once site protection efforts are complete to provide access to these sites. Team members had several site-specific recommendations:

- The team recommended restricted access in the form of guided tours for the Mushroom Springs site. This is due to park management's concerns that monitoring the area could pose a significant impact on park staff, and also that this is a critical watering and breeding area for bison.
- Team members noted that the Mulberry Grove area is periodically a source of shade for wildlife. The team recommended that visitors be routed away from Garden Creek.

- The team recommended that Wayside exhibits should be included at the Stone Corral site.

## **VIII. Proposed Facilities Development**

To better accommodate our visitors new facilities need to be constructed and existing facilities should be improved/updated. Budget/funding concerns are paramount in the issue area.

### **Issue Area: Proposed Facilities Development**

#### **Key Issues:**

- ❑ Expand the Visitor's Center
- ❑ Improve information pullouts on East Side Road
- ❑ Construct formal trailheads

### **Issue: Developments and Improvements**

Team members noted issues in three areas – the Visitor's Center, information pullouts, and trailheads.

- The Visitor's Center doesn't have enough space to provide both a conference center and a theater for video presentations. Park management voiced concerns that there is high public demand for an on-island meeting center. The Visitor's Center also suffers from an immediate shortage of storage space.
- Current information pullouts on the East Side Road are dated and in need of renovations.
- The team proposed construction of trailheads along the Mountain View Trail. Team members noted that Park staff would need to determine if new/additional interpretive information is necessary.

### **Recommendations**

- The team recommended that the Visitor's Center be expanded to include more conference rooms, meeting space and storage space.
- Team members recommended that the current information pullouts on the East Side Road be improved to provide better visual/interpretive information. The team felt that this would help expand visitor knowledge of the island.
- The team recommended construction of formal trailheads at locations where the Mountain View Trail intersects the East Side Road. An example is a trailhead near Camera Flats (Please see Plate 1).



## Conclusion

This plan is a blueprint to help implement the access planning team's recommendations. As such, it outlines the initial steps to be taken by park management in concert with park visitors, local communities and other interested users to promote better access opportunities on Antelope Island. Plan recommendations will also help boost visitation and revenue, develop new and improved facilities and storage, and provide better protection of the natural resources of Antelope Island.

The recommendations contained in this plan conform to the team's mission of developing a comprehensive access management plan that defines visitor opportunities, emphasizes the protection of resources, and preserves the values of solitude, openness and ruggedness. The two most important tools in the development of recommendations are the evaluative criteria created from the elements of the vision statement and the zoning concept map adopted by the team.

The plan's recommendations effectively address the current needs for increased access on the southern 26,000 acres of the island, facility enhancement, cultural resource protection, and park operations. The plan's success is dependent upon the continued support of stakeholders. This support will be essential for the effective implementation of plan recommendations. Stakeholder support will ensure continuity in the open and collaborative process upon which this plan was developed.

It is also essential that the document be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure its viability, relevance and usefulness. This document has sufficient flexibility to be amended in response to changing resource conditions, visitor needs and expectations, community needs and agency priorities. Such amendments may occur under the guidance of the Division of Parks and Recreation. Any such modification will include input from park visitors, local citizens, community leaders, park management or other stakeholders with interests relevant to access issues in Antelope Island State Park.

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## Appendices

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**Appendix A: Subject Matter Experts**

**Appendix B: Evaluative Matrix**

**Appendix C: Proposal Matrix**



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## Appendix A: Subject Matter Experts

Subject Matter Expert	Subject Area	Category
Rick Mayfield, Friends of Antelope Island Jerry Adair, Former Legislator Bruce Kartchner, Equestrian Representative Steve Hadden, Antelope Island SP Trail Patrol	Visitor Experience	Likelihood that proposal will impinge on island solitude, openness and ruggedness
Rick Mayfield/Jerry Adair/ Bruce Kartchner/Steve Hadden	Visitor Experience	Likelihood that the proposal already duplicates other existing opportunities in the park (is not unique)
Rick Mayfield/Jerry Adair/ Bruce Kartchner/Steve Hadden	Visitor Experience	Likelihood that the proposal will increase user conflicts
Jay Christianson, Northwest Region Manager Ron Taylor, Antelope Island SP Manager Steve Bates, AISP Wildlife Range Manager Jim Harland, Northeast Region Manager	Management	Level of impact on staff or management with implementation of proposal
Jay Christianson/Ron Taylor/ Steve Bates/Steve Hadden	Management	Likelihood that proposal will negatively impact visitor safety

Jay Christianson/Ron Taylor/Steve Bates/ Jim Harland	Management	Degree of impact (inconsistency) with access-related objectives in previous planning efforts
Jay Christianson/Ron Taylor/Steve Bates	Management	Level of facilities development needed to carry out proposed action
Jay Christianson/Ron Taylor/Steve Bates/Jim Harland	Management	Level of impact development/construction associated with proposed action will have on nearby natural/cultural features
Jay Christianson/Ron Taylor/Jim Harland	Management	Budgetary impacts of proposed action
Jay Christianson/Ron Taylor/Steve Bates	Management	Likelihood that proposal will require seasonal closures or alter current hours of operation/use
Steve Bates	Resources	Impact of proposal on island wildlife
Steve Bates	Resources	Impact of proposal on island habitat
Kevin Jones, State Archeologist Bob Hanover, Manager Fremont Indian SP	Resources	Impact of proposal on cultural/historic resources
Kevin Jones/Bob Hanover	Resources	Impact of proposal on archeological resources
Steve Bates	Resources	Likelihood that the proposal will accelerate the spread of noxious weeds
Steve Bates Keith Crumpton, FFSL	Resources	Likelihood that the proposal will increase fire danger
Ron Taylor/Steve Bates	Resources	Likelihood that the proposal could occur on other portions of the island that are already open to such use
Tim Smith, Southeast Region Manager Karen Krieger, SP Heritage Coordinator	Interpretive	Level of associated visitor information needed to ensure protection of resources, safety and reduce management burden
Tim Smith/Karen Krieger	Interpretive	Potential for proposed action to present opportunities to increase user awareness of the need to protect island resources, promote a positive visitor experience
Jay Christianson Shelleice Stokes, Weber County Travel Wilf Sommerkorn, Davis County Ron Taylor	Economic	<b>Increase</b> level of potential concessionaire involvement with the proposal
Jay Christianson/Shelleice Stokes/ Wilf Sommerkorn/Ron Taylor	Economic	Probability that proposal will significantly benefit local economies
Jay Christianson/Shelleice Stokes/ Wilf Sommerkorn/Ron Taylor	Economic	Probability that the proposal will result in additional net revenues to the park
Jay Christianson/Shelleice Stokes/ Wilf Sommerkorn/Ron Taylor	Economic	Likelihood that partnerships, user groups and other stakeholders can play an effective role in implementing the proposed action



# APPENDIX B: ACTIONS PROPOSED BY ANTELOPE ISLAND ACCESS MANAGEMENT TEAM

## CATEGORY I: GENERAL PARK ACCESS

	Proposal	Subject Matter Expert Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for all proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category)	Willing to adopt	Additional Comments
1.	<p>Main gate hours are proposed as follows:</p> <p>Open at 6:00 a.m. Close: Apr. thru Sept.: 10:00 p.m. Oct. and Mar.: 8:00 p.m. Nov. and Feb.: 7:00 p.m. Dec. and Jan.: 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Visitor Experience</b> Likely that the proposal will enhance visitor experience. Times may be hard for visitors to keep track of.</p> <p><i>Yes, but if it goes into the plan we are stuck. A more flexible schedule may be appropriate</i></p> <p><i>Simplify – closes 30 minutes after sunset; May to Aug, 10pm</i></p>	15	Low	8 Yes 1 No	<i>The 1 to “Not Adopt” will change to “Willing to Adopt” if: Open at 7am, closes at 30 minutes past sunset – creates security problems, not enough staff to monitor Park</i>
2.	<p>Consider “after hours” activities at Visitor’s Center and Ranch <u>monitored</u> or <u>accompanied</u> by authorized staff or (trained) volunteers.</p> <p><i>Example – Moonlight Bike Ride &amp; V.C. (The Negative Impacts)</i></p>	<p><b>Management Impacts</b> Potential for concessionaire to assume monitoring. The 9-mile gate would have to be manned to keep other visitors out. <i>Okay</i></p> <p><b>Resource/Wildlife Impacts</b> Impacts to habitat and wildlife could occur with off-trail activities in the area. <i>No off-trail activities are allowed at the Ranch anyway</i></p> <p><b>Cultural/Historic/Arch Resource Impacts</b> It is absolutely necessary for adequate monitoring to be in place for this to be allowed. <i>Okay; define adequate – the definition anticipated would require the site to be closed to regular visitation at all times</i> Impact at the Garr Ranch and adjoining areas could be moderate to high. <i>No history to indicate this is a true statement</i> After hours group activities have use expectations that are difficult to abate. <i>Test experiences/Trial events have not indicated this is true nor valid; where is the science, proof of this; what past experiences? when? what type? Current trial events show no such problems contrary – never even left the lawn area</i> (continued under additional comments) Past experience shows such use is harmful to resources even if monitored. Staff or volunteers often tend to the needs of the activity and don’t have the time to properly protect the resource.</p>	18.67	Moderate	8 Yes 1 No	<p>(continued from subject matter expert comments) <i>During the past 5 years there are no documented cases (or incidents) of any negative impacts by such events – incidents are reported (in writing) for all impacts of \$100 or more or where liability or possible litigation is a risk- all damage, thefts, etc. are documented. There are some during ‘open’ hours – theft of iron, stolen donation money, etc. but none related to after hours activities</i></p> <p><i>-Controlled, limited &amp; monitored</i></p>

# CATEGORY I: GENERAL PARK ACCESS (Cont'd)

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for all proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category I)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
3.	Once visitors enter the gate for day use, they will not be asked to leave the park until 10:00 p.m.	<p><b>Management Impacts</b>  Clarification is needed as to whether this policy applies to the north 2000 acres or the entire park. <b>Current State Park policy- would apply to entire park</b>  Some question if this should be a year-round policy.  There are concerns about winter seasons when visitors are in the park 3-4 hours after gate closes – staffing costs.</p>	16.5	Moderate	4 Yes 4 No 1 not checked	<p><i>-Need a variance from current park policy</i></p> <p><i>-Should leave 30 minutes after sunset- Park should close then</i></p>
4.	Park staff should work with reservations to ensure that campers are provided with a main gate combination to access the park after closing hours (a current problem in the late fall and winter months when gate is closed early); Staff will ensure that combinations are changed as appropriate to ensure security.	<p><b>Management Impacts</b>  There is concern about providing campers with “unsupervised” access (see comments below, also). This may lead to conflicts with wildlife and lead to increased fire hazards. <b>Possibly valid – but most campers with reservations go right to campsite</b>  Law enforcement may not know who is coming in, e.g., camper or trespasser? <b>This is valid</b>  This also allows the possibility of others to slip in.  Consider an electric-arm (automatic) gate. <b>This is valid</b></p> <p><b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b>  May be difficult to manage and could give campers a sense of “privileged” status. Campers who check themselves in are more likely to determine their own usage guidelines. This has been manifested at Antelope Island by camping in non-camping areas, unauthorized fires, fuel collection, use of restricted areas, etc. <b>Not valid nor true</b>  All of these activities have the potential to impact the park’s cultural resources  Personal contact is usually preferable to answer visitor questions and help them understand where to go/what to do, etc. <b>Camper with reservations (we know who they are) never camp where they are not supposed to. They have assigned campsites- There is no fuel collection on the Island – there isn’t any to collect – they do not use restricted areas.</b>  <b>It is those coming in without reservations (we don’t know who they are) who camp where they shouldn’t &amp; go where they are not suppose to and they are not always camping</b></p>	19.67	High	2 Yes 5 No 2 not checked	<p><i>-Staying open later on Friday nights would resolve the issue</i></p> <p><i>- Looks like we are tightening for the one in a million</i></p> <p><i>-I’ve been to a lot of State &amp; Fed Parks and don’t believe campers leave their camp sites too often</i></p>

**CATEGORY I: GENERAL PARK ACCESS (Cont'd)**

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for <i>all</i> proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category I)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
5.	Closure of "Nine-Mile Gate" (the gate located about 2-miles north of the Garr Ranch on the east side road), <b>Option 1:</b> Follow current policy of closing this gate at the same closing times for the Ranch (9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. May 16 through Sept. 15, and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sept. 16 through May 15).	<p><b>Visitor Experience</b> This option does not provide best times for visitors to view wildlife</p> <p><b>Management Impacts</b> As an alternative, consider closing the gate one hour before the main gate closes. <i><b>This is the only way to protect the Ranch site from unsupervised use</b></i></p>	14.5	Low	<p><b>6 Yes</b> <b>2 No</b> 1 not checked</p> <p>Note the competing options for this proposal</p>	<p>- <i>For a No there is a question mark (?) beside it</i></p> <p>- <i>Option/alternative would cause unsupervised, unmonitored use of the Ranch</i></p>
6.	Closure of "Nine-Mile Gate", <b>Option 2:</b> Leave gate open continuously.	<p><b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> Bad option! Unsupervised visitation may result in damage to site and structures. Unmonitored access is unrestricted access. Without a doubt, the ranch would be irreversibly damaged. As a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Garr Ranch is obligated to the people of Utah to provide for certain levels of securing. Leaving the nine-mile gate open would not satisfy this ethical treatment of the ranch.</p>	25.17	High	<p><b>1 Yes</b> <b>7 No</b> 1 not checked</p> <p>Note the competing options for this proposal</p>	
7.	Closure of "Nine-Mile Gate", <b>Option 3:</b> Leave gate open for longer periods on specified days of the week. Example, on Saturday and Sunday, leave gate open until 10:00 p.m. <u>Staff must be at the Ranch to protect ranch area and sensitive cultural resources</u> and provide assistance for safety and patrol purposes	<p><b>Visitor Experience</b> This represents a good compromise from current situation; from a visitor experience perspective, it is more favorable to offer visitors a "later hours" option.</p> <p><b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> It is an absolute necessity for staff to be at ranch to protect sensitive cultural resources</p> <p>There is concern for the protection of the Frary Site, ranch and others with this option. <i><b>Frary site is not protected by any of the options – it is on the other (front) side of the gate</b></i></p> <p>The increased hours of operation will increase exposure of sensitive resources to wear and tear. One option is to consider closing the ranch during winter months or during weekdays during the wintertime. This would offset prolonged usage associated with this option. Hours may be confusing; this may require careful advertising and information. (continued in add comments)</p>	17.67	Moderate	<p><b>4 Yes</b> <b>4 No</b> 1 not checked</p> <p>Note the competing options for this proposal</p>	<p>(continued from subject matter expert comments)</p> <p>- <i>Bad option, the road was not paved only to be closed to the public for significant times</i></p> <p>- <i>Closing the ranch leaves it open to trespassers &amp; unmonitored use- open means it is checked every day &amp; monitored</i></p>

## CATEGORY II: CLOSURES ON TRAIL SYSTEMS

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for <i>all</i> proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category II)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
1.	Maintain annual seasonal closures on Mountain View Trail due to pronghorn fawning from the north trailhead to the Frary Peak trailhead for approximately one month between May 15 and June 16 (actual dates may vary).	<p><b>Management Impacts</b> This represents “business as usual.”</p> <p><b>Information/Interpretation</b> Better signage and advertising is needed; This option provides an opportunity to better interpret wildlife and range management through careful planning and programming</p>	12.99	Low	9 Yes No	
2.	Maintain annual seasonal closures of the Frary Peak trail from April 20 to the Memorial Day weekend (approximately) for bighorn lambing and to help mitigate various law enforcement problems.	<p><b>Management Impacts</b> Business as usual</p> <p><b>Information/Interpretation</b> Better signage and advertising is needed; This provides an opportunity to better interpret wildlife and range management through careful planning and programming.</p>	13.67	Low	8 Yes 1 No	
3.	Once new trails are identified and approved for access, define needed closures as appropriate.	<p><b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> Difficult to assess impacts without clear identification of routes.</p> <p><b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> Army Corps of Engineers 404 compliance/consultation may also need to be considered as new trails are developed.</p> <p><b>Information/Interpretation</b> Sufficient signage and advertising will be needed; Will also require careful planning and programming to ensure information adequately covers resources</p>	17.99	Moderate	9 Yes No	<i>If a trail is identified and <u>approved</u> for access, it is only reasonable to define when closures would be needed to protect resources</i>
4.	As appropriate, close trails during muddy conditions, flood periods or where use in inclement weather may result in damage or safety hazards. Such closures should be at the discretion of park management. If possible, recommend other alternative trails for use during such closures.	<p><b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> This is an important management tool and should have little impact and will serve to protect cultural resources. Beacon Knob could provide shelter to hikers/bikers/</p> <p><b>Information/Interpretation</b> Can use closures to educate visitors on safety, environment, mgt. Concerns, wildlife natural history, etc.</p>	19.67	High	9 Yes No	

## CATEGORY II: CLOSURES ON TRAIL SYSTEMS (Cont'd)

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for <i>all</i> proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category II)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
5.	Develop guidelines for trail closure when probability of lightning is high. Consider installation of signage commensurate with the guidelines.	<b>Management Impacts</b> Additional signage will be needed <b>Visitor Experience</b> Guidelines need to provide management the ability for a rapid response	17.67	Moderate	7 Yes 2 No	
6.	Consider periodic trail closures when erosion is a problem or when there is a need for trail rehabilitation. When the closure for rehabilitation need is long term, provide alternative routes, where possible.	<b>Management Impacts</b> Concern that alternative routes may not be feasible without creating more trails. <i>-valid</i>  <b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> After major erosion or significant events or weather phenomenon, trail inspection may be necessary to ensure adjacent or unknown cultural resources have not been impacted. Trail rehabilitation could include 404 compliance or increased activity on other trails  <b>Information/Interpretation</b> Education and enforcement on this issue may prove to be difficult	21.83	High	7 Yes 2 No	<i>Try to rehabilitate existing trails by improvements/ maintenance do not create any new trails (possible access where existing dirt roads already exist) but no new paths to be created. Established history/experience shows trails in the sandy/geology on AISP expand from 4' to 20' in a matter of a few years (5 to 10). Best to continue to use these &amp; not sacrifice additional areas.</i>

### CATEGORY III: ACCESS ALONG SOUTHERN TIP ROAD

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for <i>all</i> proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category III)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
1.	Resolve problems mud-“bog” area on road to Southern Tip/Unicorn Point near McIntyre Springs. Currently, water runoff/seepage from nearby springs makes road virtually impassible and may also serve to accelerate spread and transportation of noxious weeds via mud sticking to vehicle or other transport. Management suggests this concern be resolved irrespective of types of access allowed on road. With any action taken, ensure that the quality of the spring is preserved.	<p><b>Visitor Experience</b> The current situation needs to be remedied</p> <p><b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts:</b> Springs and watering areas on Antelope Island are rich in cultural resources (as is apparent at both Mushroom Springs and the Garr Ranch). Also, improved roadways are the precursor to increased vehicle traffic and/or increased development. There are a number of historic sites south of this area that could be impacted.</p>	15.5	Low	<p><b>8 Yes</b> <b>1 No</b></p>	
2.	Southern Tip Road Access <b>Option 1:</b> Maintain current closed access status of road (i.e., <u>no public access except limited/guided tours</u> ). <i>Current special events? Buffalo days &amp; roundup</i>	<p><b>Management Impacts</b> Basically reflects the current situation (“as is” w/ current concession contract).</p> <p><b>Information/Interpretation</b> If road is closed, visitors may want to know why; could be a positive experience if done correctly.</p>	12.67	Low	<p><b>5 Yes</b> <b>3 No</b> 1 not checked</p> <p>Note the competing options for this proposal</p>	<p>- <i>OK for now</i></p> <p>- <i>Only if also open for limited monitored special events</i></p> <p>- <i>If the entire park were closed/people would want to know why; could be a positive experience? If done correctly?</i></p>

### CATEGORY III: ACCESS ALONG SOUTHERN TIP ROAD (Cont'd)

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for <i>all</i> proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category III)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
3.	<p>Southern Tip Road Access <b>Option 2</b>: Pave road from ranch south to Unicorn point (extension of east side road). Rationale: to provide broader public access to the island and to help inhibit spread of noxious weeds. With this option, provide: -Limited development at Unicorn Point including automobile turnaround area, picnic tables/cabana, appropriate information and education.-Information pullouts at designated points including the hay barn, Daddy Stump's homestead, least chub pond and areas where bison frequently occur.</p>	<p><b>Management Impacts</b> Will require significant road improvements prior to implementation; <i>true</i> Concern about risk management issues regarding ranch. <i>What risk management issues?</i></p> <p><b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> Seasonal closures may be needed during bison breeding season</p> <p><b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> There is a need to thoroughly assess ranch impacts before option is considered. <i>If open same hours of the ranch should be no additional impacts</i></p> <p>This option will adversely affect cultural and historic resources. <i>Proof?</i></p> <p>Identification and mitigation will be costly. 404 and drainage issues come into play with road improvements. This proposal would have increased impacts (visitation) on the ranch, its resources and the staff.</p> <p>Places like the hay barn and the South Causeway may be impacted by curiosity seekers. <i>not necessarily*</i></p> <p>The location of Daddy Stump's homestead is not known. A site survey needs to be done to determine the exact location before any interpretive information is prepared. <i>Logical</i></p> <p><b>Information/Interpretation</b> Research does not support premise that paving roads fights noxious weeds (opposite may be true – see <i>Belnap, Journal of Conservation Biology</i>) Getting people out of the ranch at the time of gate closure will be a daily issue. <i>It is a daily issue now</i> Pullouts may also result in casual trails to sensitive sites. <i>Current pullouts have not shown this as a problem; in past year few, if any, off road wandering to sensitive sites</i></p>	25.33	High	<p>6 Yes 3 No</p> <p>Note the competing options for this proposal</p>	<p>- <i>Great visitor opportunity – opportunities for interpretation &amp; education</i></p> <p>- <i>* The Frary site, the Mulberry Grove, Dairy Springs – none of these have been affected/impacted by curiosity seekers</i></p>

### CATEGORY III: ACCESS ALONG SOUTHERN TIP ROAD (Cont'd)

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for all proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category III)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
4.	Southern Tip Road Access <b>Option 3</b> : Provide guided access on the existing road (currently, the public may participate in limited guided tours using concessionaire-provided horses only). Under this option, the public may participate in guided hiking, biking or horseback riding (and may utilize their own horses).	<p><b>Management Impacts</b> Some concerns about wildlife issues</p> <p><b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> Visitors on foot and bike tend to cause increased wildlife flight. Larger numbers of visitors will likely increase impacts in all resource categories.</p> <p><b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> Consider impacts on ranch operations as primary concern There is some concern about adverse impacts on sites. This option, containing a personal touch by staff or vendor, may prove to be positive, educational and appropriate until more information can be documented on the southern end's resources.</p> <p><b>Information/Interpretation</b> Guided activities can be educational, but interpretive programming should be administered by qualified staff; Concessionaires may have different concepts and opinions than park staff</p>	20.32	Moderate	<p>3 Yes <b>5 No</b> 1 not checked</p> <p>Note the competing options for this proposal</p>	<p>- The one "not checked" has a question mark (?) beside it</p> <p>-OK now favor paved road</p>
5.	Southern Tip Road Access <b>Option 4</b> : Open the road to unguided hiking, biking and equestrian access, maintaining current road "as is" (with the exception of resolving mud bog issue near McIntyre Springs). Also provide interpretive information at Unicorn point along with two small trails providing shoreline access on the east/southeast portions of the southern tip	<p><b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> Visitors on foot and bike tend to cause increased wildlife flight. Larger numbers of visitors will likely increase impacts in all resource categories. <i>These folks tend to go off trail more than vehicle visitors</i></p> <p><b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> Consider impacts on ranch operations as a primary concern There is some concern about adverse impacts on sites, particularly if visitors are unguided. Such impacts would be low providing that bikers/hikers and equestrians actually remain on the road. <i>Impacts likely &amp; expected</i></p> <p>There are also concerns about sufficiency of ranch parking and restroom facilities.</p>	25.83	High	<p><b>5 Yes</b> 4 No</p> <p>Note the competing options for this proposal</p>	



### CATEGORY III: ACCESS ALONG SOUTHERN TIP ROAD (Cont'd)

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for <i>all</i> proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category III)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
6.	Southern Tip Road Access <b>Option 5</b> : Open the road at specified times and periods. For example, during special events or occasions. Access under this option should be guided/monitored. Maintain the road “as is.”	<p><b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> Visitors on foot and bike tend to cause increased wildlife flight.</p> <p><b>Management Impacts</b> This option would require road improvements.</p> <p><b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> Consider impacts on ranch operations as a primary concern. Monitoring is the key to resource protection. There are many undocumented cultural sites that will undoubtedly be tempting to some visitors. There is concern that large events result in large groups that are difficult to manage (going in various directions). Sufficient information is critical to deal with such situations.</p>	21.33	Moderate	<p>4 Yes 5 No</p> <p>Note the competing options for this proposal</p>	<p>- <i>Question mark (?) beside one of the No</i></p> <p>- <i>Road would need minor maintenance</i></p>

### CATEGORY III: ACCESS ALONG SOUTHERN TIP ROAD (Cont'd)

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for <i>all</i> proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category III)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
7.	Southern Tip Road Access <b>Option 6:</b> Construct a combination paved/gravel path parallel to road (whether it be paved or “as-is”). Paved portion would be approximately 3 feet wide to accommodate roller-blades, touring bikes, walkers. The unpaved portion would also be approximately 3 feet wide to accommodate equestrians, mountain bikes or hikers.	<p><b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> Visitors on foot and bike tend to cause increased wildlife flight. Vehicle traffic doesn’t have the same level of displacement as these activities have. These activities can be accommodated on the north end.</p> <p><b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> Consider impacts on ranch operations as the primary concern. Unmonitored access is a danger. Perhaps the largest concern with this proposal is the construction effort needed to improve the road/trail. Proposed work may go through potential cultural sites as well as wetland areas.</p> <p><b>Information/Interpretation</b> Multiple use trails will require carefully communicated use guidelines. Interpretive panels could be useful. Time restrictions and securing the ranch may be difficult with this option. Waysides need to address rules as well as provide visitor information.</p> <p><b>Economic Impacts</b> This may provide opportunities for rentals (concession).</p>	35	High	<p>4 Yes 5 No</p> <p>Note the competing options for this proposal</p>	

# CATEGORY IV: PROVISION OF OPEN ACCESS AREAS

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for all proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category IV)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
1.	<p><b>Option 1:</b> Maintain current policies providing open access for North 2000 acres and southern portion on Buffalo Days (1-day event) and the Buffalo Round-up (2-days). Enhance staff to more effectively manage these events.</p> <p><i><b>What is wrong with current management</b></i></p>	<p><b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> Closures during calving and severe winters are necessary. <i><b>These events do not occur when this is an issue</b></i></p> <p><b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> Protections can be utilized to safeguard cultural resources. These may include educational efforts, signage, fortification of sites, gate closures, backcountry registration, etc.</p> <p><b>Information/Interpretation</b> There is concern that it is difficult to provide adequate interpretation to large groups spread out over a wide area. Rules will need to be communicated to users in some effective fashion.</p> <p><b>Economic Impacts</b> This option and associated events may provide fund raising opportunities; Consider entities such as the trail patrol or others to sponsor such events. (cont. under add. comments)</p>	11	Low	<p><b>8 Yes</b> <b>1 No</b></p> <p>Note the competing options for this proposal</p>	<p><i>- Note number of days in events</i></p> <p><i>- We already use other law enforcement agencies trail patrol, mounted posse and park personnel from other parks</i></p> <p><i>- The current policy is working very well – these events are well monitored, controlled &amp; participants are given considerable information/education</i></p>
2.	<p><b>Option 2:</b> In addition to option 1, provide <i>guided/monitored</i> open access in designated areas south and west of the ranch. (primarily on the Island’s southeast side extending westward from the Ranch to the Daddy Stump Ridge area, and southward to Unicorn Point).</p>	<p><b>Management Impacts</b> Is this different from what the concessionaire currently provides? Feasibility of the option is dependent on who does the monitoring and guiding.</p> <p><b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> Seasonal closures for fawning will need to be considered.</p> <p><b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> There is concern that sites will be adversely affected. Monitored use is best. However, it should be noted that this area contains numerous undocumented sites not presently surveyed. Note also that the definition of “monitoring” must be defined to sufficiently cover the activity (e.g., a ranger making a single daily patrol of over 28,000 acres is insufficient).</p> <p><b>Information/Interpretation</b> This option could be very educational with trained guides and printed brochures.</p>	30.33	High	<p><b>2 Yes</b> <b>6 No</b> 1 not checked</p> <p>Note the competing options for this proposal</p>	<p><i>- Question mark (?) beside the not checked</i></p>

# CATEGORY IV: PROVISION OF OPEN ACCESS AREAS (Cont'd)

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for <i>all</i> proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category IV)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
3.	<b>Option 3:</b> Provide <i>unrestricted</i> open access in areas described in option 2. In this scenario (unguided open access) users must be adequately educated such that: a. Resource damage is minimized; b. There is no smoking and all applicable rules and regulations are observed; c. Reduce safety risks and minimize the possibility of injury to horse and rider	<p><b>Visitor Experience</b> Conflicts will increase as the number of users increase. It will be difficult to educate users about how to prevent problems.</p> <p><b>Management Impacts</b> There are concerns with visitor safety and potential need for sufficient search and rescue efforts.</p> <p><b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> Many concerns with unrestricted use including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fire danger</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Creation of casual trails</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Disturbance of same use patterns/cycles</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Archeological/historical pilfering or damage</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Trash/litter</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Unauthorized camping</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Strain on park staff resources</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spread of noxious/invasive weeds</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> "treasure hunting"</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> visitor safety</li> </ul> <p><b>Information/Interpretation</b> A basic premise guiding past management decisions regarding access was that wildlife will habituate to activities taking place in confined areas (confined trails). A significant amount of education would need to occur with this option.</p>	34.67	High	<p>3 Yes 6 No</p> <p>Note the competing options for this proposal</p>	
4.	<b>Option 4:</b> Provide open access on a <i>permit-only</i> basis in designated areas. Permit holders must receive adequate education prior to entry.	<p><b>Management Impacts</b> Catalina Island has similar policies</p> <p><b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> A monitoring process and cultural resource management plan must be put in place (this would apply to virtually all proposals).</p> <p><b>Information/Interpretation</b> Effective education is key to making this option viable.</p>	24.67	Moderate	<p>4 Yes 4 No 1 not checked</p> <p>Note the competing options for this proposal</p>	- <i>Question mark (?) beside the not checked</i>

# CATEGORY V: NEW TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for <i>all</i> proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category V)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
1.	Develop a southern/backcountry trail system with major trailhead at Garr Ranch. The system would mostly utilize existing service roads and would include the following segments:	<p><b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> This concept will have significant impacts on ranch staff, resources and the park's ability to preserve, conserve, restore and protect. New trails may require 404 review prior to construction.</p> <p><b>Information/Interpretation</b> Consider seasonal closures in the winter for new trails south of the Garr Ranch due to winter concentrations of deer, bald eagle and other raptors. All trail proposals will require careful interpretive planning. Where possible, utilize appropriate means such as waysides, brochures and other methods.</p>				
1.a.	Trail segment from ranch to the Sentry on existing dirt road from ranch. This trail segment should include access to Mushroom Springs archeological site. Appropriate actions should be taken to secure the Mushroom Springs site	<p><b>Management Impacts</b> Recommend limited/open access, seasonal use (no winter use – rating=2)</p> <p><b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> This area is sensitive; Mushroom Springs is a primary wildlife watering hole/travel corridor. Consequently, disturbance may be an issue. Additionally, increasing visitation may result in increased fire hazard, particularly since this is a fire-prone area.</p> <p><b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> Site surveys of affected sites should be performed prior to trail openings. Visitor safety such as near mines and ledges is vital. <i>If they are using the existing road this is irrelevant</i></p> <p>Beyond Mushroom Springs, appropriate action should be taken to secure <u>all</u> cultural sites. <i>There are no known cultural sites on or along the road to Sentry</i></p> <p><b>Information/Interpretation</b> Mushroom Springs is a rich site of information. Trailhead would need to have sufficient information (signage) about general information, rules and trail etiquette.</p>	25.5	Moderate	6 Yes 3 No	- We have a lot of trails already

**CATEGORY V: NEW TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES (Cont'd)**

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for <i>all</i> proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category V)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
1.b.	Trail segment from ranch to Sentry (same as segment 1, above) to Westside Springs utilizing existing service roads	<p><b>Management Impacts</b>            -Recommend limited/guided access, seasonal use (no winter use – rating=2)  <b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b>            There is a potential for bison displacement, particularly at Mushroom Springs and Westside Springs. Westside Spring is a critical watering hole. Westside Spring is likewise a very fire-prone area.  <b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b>            Site surveys of affected sites should be performed prior to trail openings. Visitor safety such as near mines and ledges is vital.            Beyond Mushroom Springs, appropriate action should be taken to secure <u>all</u> cultural sites.</p> <p><b>Information/Interpretation</b>            -Consider not allowing trail use to Westside Spring as this is the only water source for a significant distance in this portion of the island.</p>	29.33	High	2 Yes 7 No	
1.c.	Trail segment from ranch to “Y” in existing road below Sentry that leads toward Buffalo Scaffold Canyon and forks toward the west side shore.	<p><b>Management Impacts</b>            -Recommend limited/guided access, seasonal use (no winter use– rating=2)  <b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b>            Potential sensitive habitat, e.g., moderate slopes and sandy soil.  <b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b>            Site surveys of affected sites should be performed prior to trail openings. Visitor safety such as near mines and ledges is vital.            Beyond Mushroom Springs, appropriate action should be taken to secure <u>all</u> cultural sites.</p> <p><b>Information/Interpretation</b>            -There are opportunities to interpret island mining, ranching, LDS Church involvement, Stansbury Island, and other information relevant to the west side.</p>	27.34	Moderate	3 Yes 5 No 1 not checked	

# **CATEGORY V: NEW TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES (Cont'd)**

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for <i>all</i> proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category V)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
1.d.	Trail segment from ranch to “Y” in existing road below Sentry that leads to Buffalo Scaffold Canyon and forks northward passing by Buffalo Scaffold Canyon, Dry Canyon, Red Rocks Canyon, Mormon Rocks and Split Rock Bay and connects to the existing Split Rock trail system.	<p><b>Management Impacts</b> -Recommend limited/guided access, seasonal use (no winter use– rating=2)</p> <p><b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> This is a primary bighorn area with steep trail slopes in the area.</p> <p><b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> There are fewer known cultural resources on the west side. However, site surveys of affected sites should be performed prior to trail openings. Visitor safety such as near mines and ledges is vital. Buffalo Scaffold area has not been surveyed or documented.</p> <p><b>Information/Interpretation</b> -There are opportunities to interpret island mining, ranching, LDS Church involvement, Stansbury Island, and other information relevant to the west side.</p>	29.33	High	3 Yes 6 No	
1.e.	Daddy Stump Ridge Loop utilizing the same segment described in option a, with the loop beginning at the Sentry and extending southward along the Bonneville Terrace southward to Molly’s Nipple and return (to Sentry).	<p><b>Management Impacts</b> -Recommend limited/guided access, seasonal use (no winter use– rating=2) Site surveys of affected sites should be performed prior to trail openings. Visitor safety such as near mines and ledges is vital. Beyond Mushroom Springs, appropriate action should be taken to secure <u>all</u> cultural sites.</p> <p><b>Information/Interpretation</b> Trail etiquette information will be critical for this proposal.</p>	30.34	High	4 Yes 5 No	<i>Trails on Island are steadily widening due to use. Soil types can’t sustain &amp; recover</i>

**CATEGORY V: NEW TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES (Cont'd)**

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for <i>all</i> proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category V)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
2.	Develop a "History Trail" with trailhead near Gravel Pit (just south of nine mile gate). The trail would connect with the existing westside trail system below Beacon Knob and would parallel the Mountain View Trail to the west. Connections would be made to the following historic sites: Beacon Knob, Camera Flat, Frary Grave Site, Mulberry Grove, Garr Ranch and the hay barn (terminus). Interpret as appropriate.	<b>Management Impacts</b> -Recommend unrestricted (on trail) access– rating=1 <b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> Conduct sufficient research on resource impacts before planning where this trail should go. Sites along the trail need protection, documentation, etc. prior to access. Regular condition assessments need to be conducted. Dairy Springs is sensitive and should be left off. A site management plan for the Frary Site is necessary prior to access. <b>Information/Interpretation</b> Concern that a new trail paralleling the existing Mountain View trail could push wildlife further away from the road making them less visible to the public.	29.5	High	4 Yes 5 No	<i>East side trail exists</i>
3.	As an alternative to the above History Trail, develop trail spurs from the existing Mountain View trail to Frary and Mulberry Grove sites. This would reduce impacts on wildlife and would also minimize erosion potential	<b>Management Impacts</b> -Recommend unrestricted (on trail) access– rating=1 <b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> Mulberry Grove is in dire need of care. There is a nearby well, stream/spring, irrigation aqueduct, earthen dam. The trees themselves are a cultural resource. Fence the grove in. A site management plan for the Frary Site is necessary prior to access. <i>Agreed</i> <b>Information/Interpretation</b> -Much better alternative as these two sites have a great deal of interest to the public (perhaps use the same idea to link/access Beacon Knob as well). Still there is a need to ensure that sufficient cultural/interpretive planning is completed if option is adopted. <i>Agreed</i>	22.16	Low	8 Yes 1 No	<i>In addition to #2</i>
4.	Develop a westside shoreline trail connected to the White Rock trail system splitting off near the shoreline north of White Rock, following the shoreline to Split Rock Bay and rejoining the Split Rock Bay Trail System/Southern Backcountry Trail System (see above).	<b>Management Impacts</b> -Recommend unrestricted (on trail) access– rating=1 <b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> Westside cultural resources are fewer than on the eastside. The rock corral, Buffalo Scaffold are considerations when constructing trails. 404 consultation may be needed. <b>Information/Interpretation</b> This option should include a wayside about the rock corral which is in this area.	25.01	Moderate	5 Yes 4 No	<i>- Sensitive areas shore bird habitat, shoreline sups to springs used by wildlife</i>  <i>-One of the No has maybe written under it</i>



**CATEGORY V: NEW TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES (Cont'd)**

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for <i>all</i> proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category V)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
5.	Develop a marsh/pickleweed boardwalk/interpretive walk (for foot traffic only) near White Rock Bay group campsites.	<b>Management Impacts</b> -Recommend unrestricted (on trail) access– rating=1 Interpretation/Information This option would be a good idea for educating visitors about the island's vast botanical resources. Utilize waysides and brochures on island botany as they relate to this option.	18.67	Low	<b>8 Yes</b> <b>1 No</b>	<i>Utilization may be low</i>
6.	Develop a trail to Dooley Knob with a trailhead at the existing Frary Peak trailhead. The trail would be for hiking only.	<b>Management Impacts</b> -Recommend unrestricted (on trail) access– rating=1 <b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> This is a bison movement corridor Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts Survey area for mine shafts and tailings. This may indicate existence of other resources. <b>Information/Interpretation</b> Information about safety and etiquette is crucial for this option. Also consider installation of a wayside at the top of the trail.	23.5	Low	<b>5 Yes</b> <b>4 No</b>	
7.	Consider island wide unadvertised off-trail hiking	<b>Management Impacts</b> Do not recommend (note: this occurs on the north 2000 acres) <b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> Difficult to determine impacts to wildlife given uncertain nature of use patterns. <b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> Trail systems protect resources and will offer a viewshed over the entire island. This particular proposal amounts to unrestricted access. <b>Information/Interpretation</b> Information/education needs for this option would be difficult to define – this proposal is not a good idea.	32.18	High	<b>1 Yes</b> <b>8 No</b>	

**CATEGORY V: NEW TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES (Cont'd)**

	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for <i>all</i> proposals = 22.7)</b>	<b>Relative Impact (based on other scores in category V)</b>	<b>Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?</b>	<b>Additional Comments</b>
<b>8.</b>	Consider permit-only unadvertised off-trail hiking	<p><b>Management Impacts</b> Do not recommend</p> <p><b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> Difficult to determine impacts to wildlife given uncertain nature of use patterns.</p> <p><b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> Registration without monitoring is unrestricted access. Sensitive sites may be damaged.</p> <p><b>Information/Interpretation</b> Information/education needs for this option would be difficult to define.</p>	28.84	High	<p>2 Yes</p> <p>7 No</p>	

## CATEGORY VI: CAMPING

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for <i>all</i> proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category VI)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
1.	Provide a 30-unit, full hook-up campground in the proximity of the Visitor's Center (to utilize available water, electricity and sewer connections).	<b>Management Impacts</b> Do not recommend <b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> This is a wintering area for bull bison. There is also a threat of noxious weed proliferation with site construction. Also, with increase in camping, fire danger may increase as well. <b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> There is potential of impact on cultural resources. Effects may be mitigated. <b>Information/Interpretation</b> Will help attract more visitation to visitor's center/existing exhibits. This option will require additional waysides and will also provide an opportunity to make use of the adjacent amphitheater.	25.33	Moderate	4 Yes 5 No	<i>Existing campground is under utilized</i>
2.	Develop a walk-in tent site/camping area on the north end of the beach below the Visitor's Center.		21.33	Moderate	5 Yes 3 No 1 not checked	<i>One not checked has a question mark (?) beside it</i>
3.	Expand existing Bridger Bay campground (develop a potential second loop)		21.18	Moderate	7 Yes 1 No 1 Maybe	<i>- Maybe after walk-in</i> <i>- Yes, as demand increases</i> <i>- Only if it is fully developed as an alternative to #1</i>
4.	Provide overnight horse stabling for campers. Location would be near the buffalo corral.	<b>Information/Interpretation</b> Can use interpretation to stress themes about island wildlife, ranching and horse breeding	16.67	Low	8 Yes 1 No	<i>Only if for overnight with owners camping not a stable nor boarding facility</i>
5.	Provide for boat camping in the marina.	<b>Information/Interpretation</b> Can interpret lake use and exploration	16.5	Low	9 Yes No	
6.	Provide overnight parking for boat campers. Utilize a "permitting" process (for safety/security reasons).		15.67	Low	9 Yes No	

**CATEGORY VI: CAMPING (Cont'd)**

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for <i>all</i> proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category VI)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
7.	Provide primitive camping opportunities off at designated areas along East Side road per recommendations listed in the RMP.	<b>Management Impacts</b> Some concerns about impacts on staff <b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> East side is important summer habitat for bison, deer and pronghorn No open fires should be allowed <b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> Fire damage will be increased. Wood gathering, exploring and off-trail use will also increase. Such sites should not be group sites (e.g., scouts). <b>Information/Interpretation</b> Interpretation would be more regulatory: to educate about fire danger, resource damage potential, etc.	29.5	High	3 Yes 6 No	<i>- Very limited</i>  <i>- This year's surveys show that bison spend the majority of their time on the east side</i>
8.	Provide backcountry/primitive campsites at the following locations: Split Rock Bay, near Red Rocks Canyon and Cambria Point. These should be primitive sites offered by permit. They should be tied to the proposed West Side trail system and should also provide for "boat-in" access.	<b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> No open fires should be allowed There is a critical spring near Cambria Point that is used by bison, pronghorn, deer and bighorn sheep. <b>Information/Interpretation</b> Interpretation would be regulatory in nature	30.32	High	4 Yes 5 No	<i>- Limited numbers</i>  <i>-By permit</i>
9.	Develop a primitive backcountry campsite at Buffalo Scaffold Canyon near the "Old Cowboy Campsite"/Cedar Springs area.	<b>Management Impacts</b> Access depends on whether visitors are guided. Also, a determination should be made about who the guide should be. <b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> Minimize encroachment of wildlife near area springs. No open fires should be allowed Buffalo Scaffold has a hunting/ranching/mining history. The site needs careful survey and documentation prior to access. Recommend registered/permitted use only. <b>Information/Interpretation</b> This area has potential as a wildlife viewing area.	29.67	High	5 Yes 4 No	<i>- Limited numbers</i>  <i>-By permit</i>  <i>-Concessionaire guided/limited only</i>  <i>-West side water is critical to wildlife; camping will deny wildlife access</i>

# CATEGORY VI: CAMPING (Cont'd)

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for <i>all</i> proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category VI)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
10.	Provide special event camping near the Garr Ranch, on the island's south end or near the Frary Peak trailhead parking area. Examples include equestrian endurance rides, Concession-guided camping, etc.	<p><b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> Weather conditions will greatly influence impacts of use on habitat</p> <p><b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> Division's Heritage Coordinator has deep concerns about camping near the ranch. Opposes ranch camping in light of the significant development that has taken place there over the past few years.</p> <p>Potential major impact on ranch resources. Restrictions would include: no fires; no wood gathering; close monitoring; ranch is off limits; certified hay for horses; no parking/camping at the ranch itself; no camping on 12 acres listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Without a guide, this amounts to leaving the ranch open unattended after hours. How will the nine-mile gate be operated during such times? Camping development will compromise the ranch's historical integrity as well as the historic viewshed.</p> <p><b>Information/Interpretation</b> Monitoring would be intense. The sight is rich in history but very sensitive. Camping and fire could potentially destroy the resource.</p>	21.5	Moderate	4 Yes 5 No	<p><i>- If we are concerned about campers leaving their campsites then putting campers adjacent to a historic site is not a good idea</i></p> <p><i>- But only during the annual historic Buffalo Roundup (one event only no others)</i></p> <p><i>- Overnight camping at the ranch is never "unattended". A park ranger has stayed overnight-on site every time and has never been open to camping other than roundup</i></p>

## CATEGORY VII: ARCHEOLOGICAL/HISTORIC SITE ACCESS

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for all proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category VII)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
1.	Allow access to the Frary Grave Site. <i>Foot/bicycle/equestrian?</i>	<b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> This is a sensitive, artifact-rich site. This site needs a survey, management plan and other management guidance prior to allowing public access. <i>True</i> <b>Information/Interpretation</b> While there are protection concerns, the public would appreciate access to this area. <i>Agreed</i> The site should not be opened to public access until a site management plan is complete. <i>Agreed</i>	19.84	Low	8 Yes 1 No	<i>Only on special occasions guided – until measures to protect are in place</i>
2.	Allow access to the Mushroom Springs Site <i>Foot/bicycle/equestrian?</i>	<b>Management Impacts</b> Access should be made under the direction of a guide or other means. There may be significant impact on staff. Current road is inadequate to handle 2-way traffic. <b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> This is a critical watering and breeding area for bison. Recommend restricted access <b>Information/Interpretation</b> Guided tours would be preferable for this area	24.66	Moderate	7 Yes 2 No	- <i>Only when the dig is active &amp; guided tours only</i>  - <i>Limited access/times only</i>
3.	Allow access to the Mulberry Grove area <i>Foot/bicycle/equestrian?</i>	<b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> This area is periodically a shade source for wildlife. Suggest that visitors be routed away from Garden Creek. <b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> A site survey should be conducted prior to access. The site should be documented and special care to revitalize area (see comments under “history trail” proposal).	20.99	Low	7 Yes 2 No	- <i>Only on special occasions – guided</i>  - <i>Trail needs to be routed away from the creek</i>
4.	Allow access to the Stone Corral Site	<b>Management Impacts</b> -do not recommend <b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> Concerns that the corral could be knocked over, or stones could be pilfered. <b>Information/Interpretation</b> Access is already provided Wayside exhibits should be included	26.49	Moderate	6 Yes 3 No	<i>Trail already passes right next to corral</i>
5.	Allow access to the Dairy Springs area	<b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> This is a critical watering source for wildlife and habitat Too little is known about this site. Access should not be allowed until an appropriate study has been conducted.	28.66	High	2 Yes 7 No	<i>For stated reason</i>

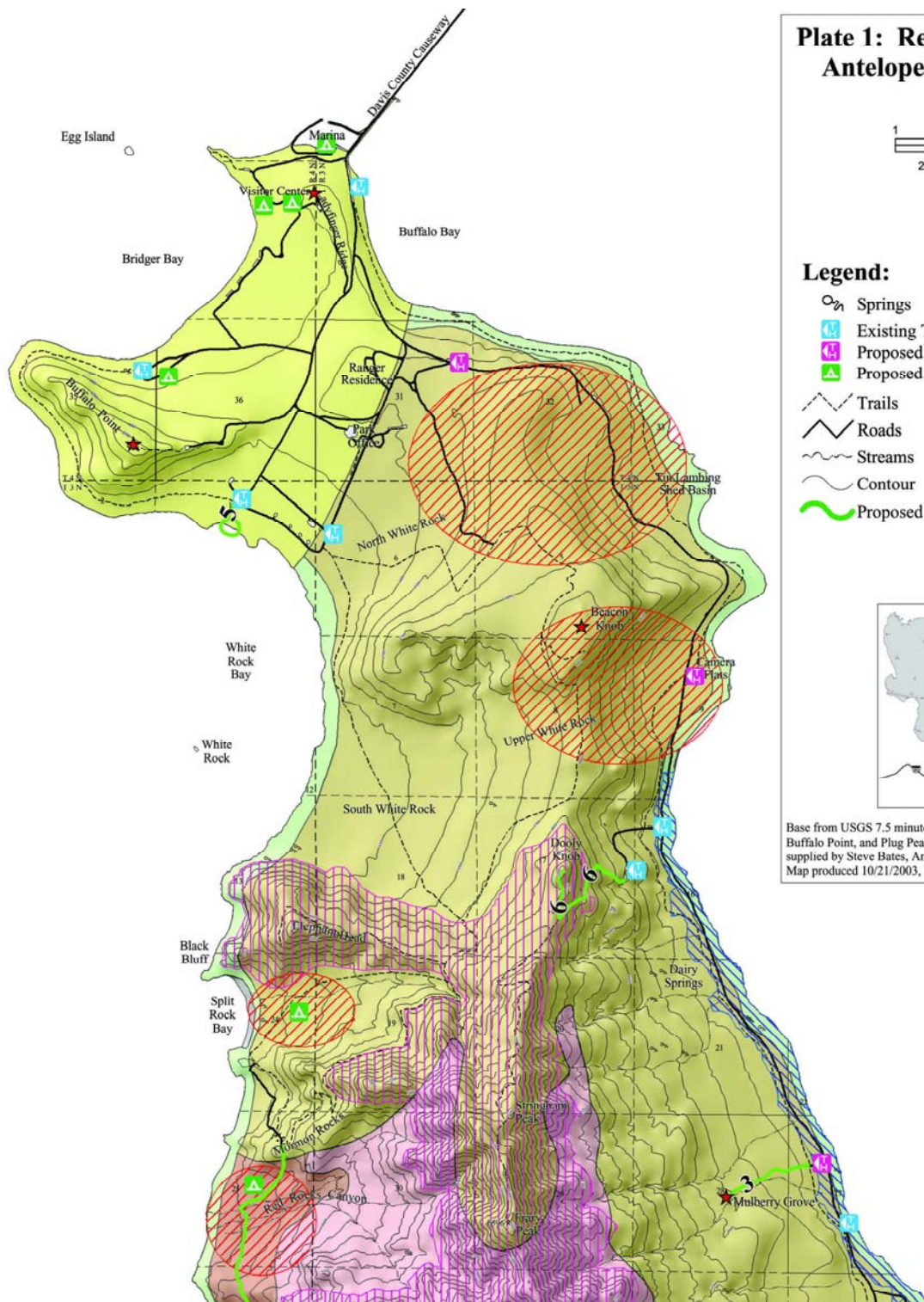
**CATEGORY VII: ARCHEOLOGICAL/HISTORIC SITE ACCESS (Cont'd)**

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for <i>all</i> proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category VII)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
6.	Allow access to Unicorn Point (see also access proposals listed in section III – Southern Tip Access Road above) <b>Foot? Vehicle?</b>	<b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> This area is used extensively by bison, deer, and pronghorn. Note that foot disturbance may exceed vehicle impacts. Many cultural resource issues are concerns in this region. There may be issues with unauthorized causeway access. This requires the road to be opened beyond the ranch. <b>Information/Interpretation</b> Information about security, safety and resource protection is needed. Brochures, waysides, or even recordings may be effective.	22.99	Low	7 Yes 2 No	- <i>Vehicle access only</i>  - <i>Only if option for development and paved road is selected</i>  - <i>Limited concessionaire van tours guided/monitored okay</i>
7.	Allow access to the Daddy Stump Site (see also access proposals listed in section III – Southern Tip Access Road above)	<b>Management Concerns</b> -Concerns with open/non-guided access <b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> This site is not verified by any reliable means. Where would the access be to? If the site is located it would replace Fort Buenaventura as the first white settlement in the Great Basin. It would be very significant and worthy of study and protection prior to access if any is granted. <b>Information/Interpretation</b> This site should not be pursued until more definitive evidence is obtained.	32.49	High	3 Yes 6 No	
8.	Allow access to Headbanger Cave	<b>Management Concerns</b> -Do not recommend Access depends on whether visitors are guided. <b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> Access should be limited (by permit or registration). The site has been surveyed and good documentation exists. <i>If this happens yes</i>	24.84	Moderate	3 Yes 6 No	- <i>On permitted basis</i>
9.	Allow access to Mormon Rocks	<b>Wildlife/Resource Impacts</b> This is a deer wintering area and is utilized by bighorn sheep year round. <b>Information/Interpretation</b> Access is already provided	29	High	5 Yes 4 No	- <i>Access currently only on north side of Mormon Rocks</i>  - <i>On trail</i>

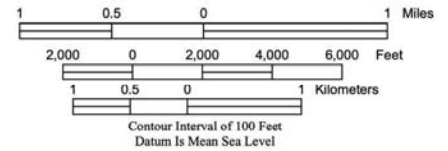
### CATEGORY VIII: PROPOSED FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT

	Proposal	Comments	Overall Evaluative Score (Note average for <i>all</i> proposals = 22.7)	Relative Impact (based on other scores in category VIII)	Would you be willing to adopt this proposal as part of the plan?	Additional Comments
1.	Expand Visitor's Center to include more conference rooms and meeting space.	Wildlife/Resource Impacts Control of noxious weeds will be critical in the event of construction. Management Concerns -expand at current site, if possible -Interpretive/Information May be costly	14.34	Low	6 Yes 3 No	- <i>Prioritize when dollars are needed: long-term objectives</i>  - <i>Should be high on priority list!</i>
2.	Provide rental cabins in designated areas.	Wildlife/Resource Impacts Difficult to determine impacts until sites are identified Cultural Resources Critical to show potential rental cabin sites before an evaluation can be completed	25.51	High	2 Yes 6 No 1 not checked	- <i>Needs careful study</i>  - <i>One not checked has – can't determine</i>
3.	Improve information pullouts on the East Side Road to provide better visual/interpretive information.	Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts Good positive impact; will help expand visitor knowledge of the island. <b>Information/Interpretation</b> Will require good interpretive planning and use of effective wayside guides	12.5	Low	9 Yes No	<i>Some already expanded</i>
4.	Construct formal trailheads at places where the Mountain View Trail intersects the East Side Road (near Camera Flats, for example)	<b>Cultural/Historic/Arch. Resource Impacts</b> Good idea. <b>Information/Interpretation</b> Determine if new/additional interpretive information will be needed	16.82	Moderate	8 Yes 1 No	<i>Several exist already</i>



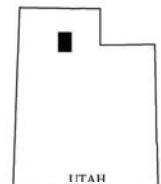
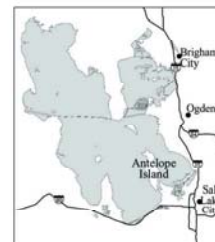


**Plate 1: Recreational Use Areas & New Trails**  
**Antelope Island Access Management Plan**  
**2003**



**Legend:**

- Springs
- Existing Trailhead
- Proposed Trailhead
- Proposed Campground
- Trails
- Roads
- Streams
- Contour
- Proposed Trails
- Critical Pronghorn Habitat
- Critical Mule Deer Habitat
- Critical Bighorn Habitat
- OR - Open recreation
- RCW - Recreation corridors in wildlife habitat
- RSW - Recreation shore in wildlife habitat
- RRW - Restricted recreation, entry by permit
- LE - Limited entry, critical wildlife habitat



Base from USGS 7.5 minute quadrangles: Antelope Island, Antelope Island North, Antelope Island South, Buffalo Point, and Plug Peak NE. Roads and trails were updated via mapping grade GPS. Wildlife data supplied by Steve Bates, Antelope Island's Wildlife Coordinator.  
Map produced 10/21/2003, by Utah State Parks and Recreation for planning purposes only.

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